

LOK SABHA DEBATES (English Version)

**Second Session
(Ninth Lok Sabha)**



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LOK SABHA DEBATES

LOK SABHA

Friday, April 6, 1990 / Chaitra 16, 1912
(Saka)

The Lok Sabha met at Eleven of the Clock

[MR. SPEAKER *in the Chair*]

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Mr. M.V. Chandrashekara Murthy.

DR. THAMBI DURAI : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I want to make one submission. Whenever our former Members die, we make obituary references.

MR. SPEAKER : I know that. Please sit down.

MR. SPEAKER : Now, Mr. Ramlal Rahi.

[Translation]

Today also, people are not present.

[English]

- Next question - Shri Bhosale..

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

[English]

Interim Board for Doordarshan

*353 SHRI PRATAPRAO B. BHOSALE: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether Govt. propose to set up an Interim Board to look after Doordarshan;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the criteria to be adopted for selection of members of the Board;

(d) whether any representation in the Interim Board will be given to persons, from public life; and

(e) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING AND MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI P. UPENDRA): (a) to (e). Government proposes to set up an Interim Media Advisory Committee, consisting of distinguished persons from the media, from the world of cinema, art and culture, the world of scholarship, agriculture and rural development, to oversee the functioning of AIR and Doordarshan.

[Translation]

SHRI PRATAPRAO BABURAO BHOSALE: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the Government had earlier announced that these media would be given autonomy. I would like to know from the hon. Minister how much time will it take to give them autonomy ? The hon. Minister has not made any reference to it in his reply. The second point is that, I had asked in my question whether the Government proposes to set up an Interim Board to look after Doordarshan. In this regard, it has been stated in the answer that the Chairman of the Interim Media Advisory Committee would be there in this Board. I would like to know what would be the powers of this Board, what would be its term and what would be the number of its members.

[English]

SHRI P. UPENDRA : Sir, while introducing the Prasar Bharati Bill in this House on 29th December, 1989, I had indicated that the Bill would be passed this year, and more so, during this session and after that, we would take six to seven months to complete the legal and administrative formalities and the new Corporation would come into being early next year. That was the schedule we had already announced.

According to the Bill, there will be a Board of Governors which will be selected by a selection committee consisting of the Vice-President of India, the Chairman of the Press Council and a media expert to be appointed by the President of India. The Board of Governors will be selected by this three-members committee. Pending the formation of the Corporation, I had mentioned in my speech while introducing the Bill:

"To ensure that right from now all this is done through a process which is routed in the concept of autonomy and independence even before the law is enacted, we propose to immediately set up a compact five-member board consisting of distinguished persons from the media, from the world of cinema, art and culture, the world of scholars, agriculture and rural development to oversee the functioning of AIR and Door-darshan."

The idea of formation of this interim monitoring committee is to prepare the media for the autonomous working next year. It is purely an advisory committee and the persons of this committee are being finalised now. In the next few days, we will announce the Media monitoring committee - purely advisory committee - not a replacement of the proposed Board of Governors.

[Translation]

SHRI PRATAPRAO BABURAO BHOSALE: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the answer given by the hon. Minister is all right, but I

would like to know as to who would be the Chairman of this Committee?

AN HON. MEMBER : You would be the Chairman.

SHRI PRATAPRAO BABURAO BHOSLE: Many many congratulations. Will this Advisory committee have the powers only to advise on the enactment of a law for granting autonomy to the electronic media or will it have other powers also?

[English]

SHRI P. UPENDRA : We are considering a number of names of eminent people and I will announce the names of the members of that committee in this House. One of those members will act as the Chairman. As I said earlier, it will be purely an advisory committee. As regards the other part of the question put by the hon. Member, I can say that this is purely an advisory committee and they will not hold any statutory functions.

SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV : The hon. Minister just now quoted from his speech. He said that before the formation of the Board, there will be an ad-hoc committee. I would like to know as to whether or not one is aware of a news which is appearing in a national Press for the last seven days. The present Minister is more of an interfering type than the recent Minister, Mr. K.K. Tewary. Sir, I just want to share the news which has appeared in a newspaper. I have all respect for you. I do not want to cast aspersions on you or on the Minister. When the President of India addressed this august House and the Rajya Sabha together, an hon. Member stood up and said something which we ourselves have also seen. At that time, a live telecast was arranged. It came out in the Press that the Minister called the camera man of the TV group in his chamber and instructed him not to show the interruptions either in the TV news or project the same in the live telecast. It appeared in the paper. I may be wrong also. But I will be happy if it comes in record that what happened was wrong. The interruption was also

not seen in the TV during the live telecast. May I know whether this is a fact and if is not fact, then why has he not contradicted ? These are aspersions on the Ministry.

MR. SPEAKER : The Speaker, and the Speaker's Secretariat has nothing to do with that.

SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV : Sir, I agree with you. But what is his Secretariat doing? They should contradict it. I agree that you cannot do it. Seeing you for the last three months. I agree that you cannot do it. Will you clarify the matter ?

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE : We feel that you are doing it for the last forty years.

SHRI P. UPENDRA : I particularly do not relish the comparison which the hon. Member has made with one of the recent Ministers. But I can tell one thing that right now, Doordarshan and Radio are still Government organisations. They are not autonomous as on today. Myself or my Ministry cannot abdicate our responsibility about proper functioning of these media. As far as interference is concerned, the persons working there came to me and told how hotline telephones were kept there, how instructions were going on from the Prime Minister's Office and the Minister's Office how news were tailored and so on. Thus, they lost their power of functioning independently and today this has become the biggest handicap for me... (*Interruptions*) .. Therefore, we have given them functional freedom as on today. But I retain the authority to oversee their functions and point out lapses, if any. It is my duty and I will continue to do it. As regards Joint Session, I made it very clear in the Rajya Sabha also about the rules of Joint Session. Joint Session is meant only for the Address of the President of India and the camera is supposed to focus only on the President and no other proceedings were to be covered. No other proceedings were televised on that day. This is all I said on that day in the Rajya Sabha. It would continue to be the position unless we decide to televise the proceedings of the House. The hon. Mem-

bers' interruptions, etc. cannot be covered in the Joint Session.

SHRIMATI MALINI BHATTACHARYA : When this Bill was introduced, there was a very welcome promise on the part of the Government that a national consensus arising out of the debates and discussions on this Bill in different phases will be taken into account and the opinion of the people would be considered in the final shaping of this Bill. Today, there is a lot of debate going on at every level regarding the Prasar Bharti Bill. One would think that when we are about to have a temporary Advisory Board, this is a good time for considering the public opinion and having a feedback from the public opinion. I would like to ask the hon. Minister whether they are thinking of any mechanism attached to this Advisory Board whereby public opinion and the popular opinion can be considered and accommodated.

SHRI P. UPENDRA : After the introduction of the Bill and at the time of the introduction also, I had mentioned that the Bill is tentative and this is subject to amendments. Accordingly, we opened a public debate. The Doordarshan and the All India Radio as also the media have conducted a number of panel discussions. Apart from that, I myself had written personal letters to about 1200 organisations in the country inviting their suggestions and we have received suggestions from the various organizations. There was a thorough discussion in the Consultative Committee attached to my Ministry on the Bill. I am also convening a meeting of the State Information Ministers on the 18th of this month for a discussion on this Bill and to elicit the opinion of the State Governments. We had already written to them and we would formally discuss it now. We have received a number of suggestions and there is a very good feedback. A separate cell has been opened in My Ministry. All the suggestions have been computerised clause-wise and they are being sorted out. Subsequently, when the Committee is appointed, we would ask them also to go through the suggestions and we will accordingly bring the necessary amendments.

[*Translation*]

SHRI VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether there would be any scope for improvement in the Doordarshan, with the mere formation of the Board? Now, crores of people watch Doordarshan. As far as the equipment available and the people working in Doordarshan are concerned, there is neither a complete professional outlook there, nor are there all the necessary equipments. Therefore, there can be no scope for improvement, with the mere formation of Board. Doordarshan programmes should reflect the hopes and expectations of the people. We have not seen any improvement during the last one hundred days. I would like to know from the Hon. Minister what steps are being taken to bring equipment and infuse professionalism in order to bring about specific reforms in the working of Doordarshan and whether he believes that the formation of Board would bring about the needed improvement? In the matter of sports, you must have seen that programmes are shown but they are interrupted in the nick of time. What steps are being taken by Doordarshan in this regard?

SHRI P. UPENDRA : Mr. Speaker, it is not that the mere formation of the Board would bring about the improvements but the Board would endeavour to bring about the improvement. As the hon. Member has said, we are initiating several schemes in the 8th Five Year Plan for soft ware, hard ware and further improvements

SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV : Independent Finance ?

SHRI P. UPENDRA : The Finance Minister is present in the House and it would be included in the 8th Five Year Plan.

[*English*]

DR. THAMBI DURAI : Just now, the Minister said that he would announced the names of the persons who were going to be in the Advisory Board for looking after the

Doordarshan. I would like to know whether the Minister would include some of the Members of Parliament as representatives in the Board.

SHRI P. UPENDRA : The Members had an opportunity when the Bill was introduced and we had a discussion in the Consultative Committee also. They will have an opportunity when the Bill is taken up for consideration and passing in the House. I do not think, we should include them in the Advisory Board.

SHRI SAMARENDRA KUNDU : I would like to know from the Minister whether he is going to encourage small feature films for telecast in Doordarshan.

During the last regime, one film, 'Voices of Baliapal' was not allowed to be serialised on T.V. Now, this film got an international award and has received a prize of more than Rs. 2 lakh. I would very specifically like to know from the Hon. Minister whether he will show this film on T.V. or not.

SHRI P. UPENDRA : Sir, is the supplementary within the scope of the main question?

MR. SPEAKER : It does not come within the scope of the main question but if you want, you can give answer.

SHRI P. UPENDRA : Sir, generally we are encouraging such films and that film also will be screened.

Foreign Purchasers of Indian Tea

* 354. **SHRI KAILASH MEGHWAL :** Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether major foreign purchasers of tea quote directly in the Indian Tea auction taking advantage of competitive Indian prices and cheap India labour;

(b) whether the tea so purchased against rupee payments is re-exported to hard cur-

rency markets resulting in further pressure on rupee-value ;

(c) whether Government propose to make any change in the existing system; and

(d) if so, details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND TOURISM (SHRI ARUN KUMAR NEHRU): (a) to (d). A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT

- (a) Indian tea is not cheaper when compared to teas of other origin. However, it is a fact that major foreign buyers, both Rupee payment and General Currency Area, prefer to buy tea from primary auctions in India.
- (b) No such case has come to the Government's notice.
- (c) There is no such proposal at present.
- (d) Does not arise.

[Translation]

SHRI KAILASH MEGHWAL: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the high-quality orthodox, C.T.C. and Darjeeling tea's produced in India are exported abroad. The inferior quality teas are left to be distributed in the Indian markets. The hon. Minister's reply does not state whether the tea so purchased by the U.K. and U.S.S.R. is re-exported to hard currency markets. The Tea Board and the Indian Consulates in U.K. and U.S.S.R. will co-operate with the Government in this matter. U.S.S.R. participated in the tea auction held in London in 1989. Sir, 70% of the tea exported by India is purchased by

U.S.S.R. and Iran. The tea purchased by the U.S.S.R. is sold by it in the auction.

MR. SPEAKER: Please ask your question.

SHRI KAILASH MEGHWAL: I am coming to my question. The National Dairy Development Board is not supplying milk in the villages. People have switched over to drinking tea instead of milk but even tea is not available.. .. (*Interruptions*).

MR. SPEAKER: This is not the question. Please ask your question. (*Interruptions*)

SHRI KAILASH MEGHWAL: The Soviet Union Purchases tea in June from India. In 1989, tea was sold to them at the rate of Rs. 35% per kg. which resulted in a loss of crores of rupees to the national exchequer. May I know if the Government will try to rationalise the export policy and take steps to curb the re-export of tea bought from the Indian market ?

SHRI ARUN KUMAR NEHRU: First of all, the U.S.S.R. purchases the tea through the auction. India exports 100 million to 120 million kilos of tea to the U.S.S.R. According to information given by the Tea Board, the U.S.S.R. does not export the tea that it purchases from us. Tea consumption in the U.S.S.R. is 500 million kilos while the production of tea is 120 million kilos. According to the hon. Member, 70% of the tea purchased by the U.S.S.R. is re-exported by it in the international market. If the hon. Member can furnish any evidence in this regard, the Government can conduct an inquiry into the matter. As far as Iran is concerned, it comes under the general currency area and in the auction it buys the tea in hard currency. How can we stop them from re-exporting the tea elsewhere ? India's total tea exports are valued at Rs. 600 crores while tea exports of all tea-producing countries taken together amount to Rs. 28,000 crores. So the export policy cannot be changed for just one product. How can we stop any country from buying anything from India?

SHRI KAILASH MEGHWAL: Mr. Speaker, Sir, let me explain the reason for my asking this question. Sir, the price of tea has doubled over the past two years but there has been no increase in either the cost of production or the wages of labour. This is the result of a faulty policy. With the change in Government there should be change in policy also. Today, the common man is getting tea of inferior quality. Will the Government ensure that the common man in India gets superior quality tea? About a year-and-a-half back, the price of tea was Rs. 23/- per kg. and now it has increased to Rs 45/- per kg. What steps are being taken by the Government to bring down the price of tea?

SHRI ARUN KUMAR NEHRU: Due to scanty rainfall, last year in South and North East India, production of tea has fallen short by 20-25 million tonnes. When we saw that the price of tea was rising, we reduced the quota for export and this led to fall in auction rates... (*Interruptions*).. I can give you the auction price of the Tea Board but not the retail price. The Government does not regulate tea prices and the tea auctions are held according to the supply and demand position. Due to a fall in production, exports were reduced with a view to stabilizing prices. The price-rise was also due to increase in levies, sales tax and duties by the West Bengal and Assam Governments. The Central is discussing this matter with these Governments.

SHRI RAGHAVJI: Sir, may I know from the hon. Minister the names of the tea-exporting countries in the world and what is India's share in the international market?

SHRI ARUN KUMAR NEHRU: There are many multi-national companies in Africa, Indonesia and South America. Presently, India, Sri Lanka and Kenya are major exporters. Production of tea is increasing all over the world. Every year production is increasing by 110 million kilos and consumption is increasing by 55 million kilos. There are new entrants in the international market and their cost of production is low. The quality of Kenyan tea is inferior and Indian tea is in great demand. When auctions are held in the

international market, Indian tea gets the maximum realisation.

SHRI NANI BHATTACHARYA: Sir, recent events in Eastern Europe indicate that sale of tea can be increased if sale outlets are opened over there. What is the Government's thinking in this matter? May I know the results of the promotional campaign launched by the Tea Board for the purpose of domestic consumption?

SHRI ARUN KUMAR NEHRU: Sir, we are exporting tea to Eastern Europe and to the rupee payment areas. The system will be changed in future, be it in the general currency area or the rupee payment area. Secondly, the Tea Board has many schemes for increasing tea production. If you want, I can read out the list. It is a long and comprehensive list. .. (*Interruptions*)...

[*English*]

Sir, these are also very important. I do not mind; I will just give the headings. It will not take much time. They are; Tea Plantations Finance Scheme, Tea Machinery and Equipment Hire-Purchase Scheme, Tea Replantation Subsidy (for old plantations), Tea Area Consolidation Scheme, New Tea Units Financing Schemes and Darjeeling Interest Subsidy Scheme. (*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: Now Question 355 - Mr. Chiranji Lal Sharma is not here. Question 356-Shri Pyarelal Khandelwal, Dr. A.K. Patel-both are not here.

[*Translation*]

They give notices of questions and then don't remain present here. This is not proper.

[*English*]

Newsprint Allocation Policy

+

***357. SHRI LOKANATH CH-
OUDHARY:**

SHRIMATI J. JAMUNA:

Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are considering some changes in the newsprint allocation policy; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING AND MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI P. UPENDRA): (a) and (b). The Newsprint Allocation Policy for 1990-91 is under formulation.

SHRI LOKANATH CHOUDHARY: I want to know what are the new features and additions that are being proposed to be considered, when this new allocation policy will be finally formulated. (*Interruptions*)

SHRI P. UPENDRA : I had a meeting with the Newsprint Advisory Committee some time ago, and we have more or less formulated the views, and the policy is being finally drafted. We will announce it in the House in the next few days.

One of the major changes is that the newspapers have been demanding allocations on the basis of higher growth rates. Previously, we were taking an annual growth rate of 5% into consideration. Now, in the new policy, we have agreed to raise it to 7% i.e. the newsprint will be allocated on the basis of a 7% growth in circulation. That is one major change.

They wanted some reduction in the Customs duty on the import of newsprint. The hon. Finance Minister has already announced a cut of Rs. 100 per tonne in Customs duty on the imported newsprint. These are the major points.

One major demand for de-canalization of the imports which they have been demanding, could not be agreed to.

SHRI LOKANATH CHOUDHARY: I want to know this: the small newspapers are agitating for a long time. They are not getting the required newsprint. Will the new policy specially take into consideration the require-

ments of the small newspapers; and also; is it a fact that many big newspapers give a bigger circulation figure than their real circulation? They create an artificial requirement, and they send their newsprint to the market for sale. Has this come to the notice of the Minister?

SHRI P. UPENDRA : We are taking care of the requirements of the small and medium newspapers. Whatever they want, is being allotted fully.

As regards the rate also, there is a concession for the small newspapers. They are fully exempted from Customs duty; and in the case of medium newspapers, the Customs duty is half as that for big newspapers. Their full requirements are being met.

What the hon. Member has said is also true., viz. that many newspapers, small newspapers give bogus circulation figures. And on the basis of that, they get allocation and indulge in black marketing of the newsprint also. We have come across certain incidents. But, right now, we have no machinery to check up the daily circulation of these newspapers. But we are trying to tighten the arrangement and see that the circulation figures are correctly reported. (*Interruptions*)

SHRIMATI J. JAMUNA : What is the position of shortage of newsprint at present?

SHRI P. UPENDRA : The annual requirement is 5.65 lakh metric tonnes out of that, the indigenous mills produce 2.95 lakh metric tonne. We are short by 2.70 lakh tonnes; and that is being imported.

PROF. K.V. THOMAS : This is a sad fact that in a democratic country like India the big newspapers media are controlled by large by big business houses. Very often they try to divulge the public opinion according to their vested interest. On the other hand, there are small and medium newspapers which do not have this interest. It is either conducted by individuals who are interested in the media or some newspaper

medium and small newspapers as also the regional newspapers, will you take a little more lenient view on this? Very often newspaper quotas are allotted. There are allegation that they are selling it in the black market; there may be something like that; I am not questioning it. But looking to the larger interest of the country and big people who are trying to get public opinion in their favour, will you help the small and medium newspapers?

SHRI P. UPENDRA : As all of us are aware, many newspapers including the National Newspapers, are controlled by big business houses. It is a fact of life. I don't think we can do anything about it right now; and we cannot control the Press. But, as far as the small and medium newspapers are concerned, in the recent meeting of the Newsprint Advisory Committee, the representatives of the big newspapers wanted de-canalisation of the import, that is, they want the permits to be given to them so that they can import on their own, and not through the STC; and that will be to the detriment of the small and medium newspapers. Therefore, we did not agree to de-canalisation because the interest of the small and medium newspapers would be affected because they cannot go directly and import the newsprint.

Secondly, we are encouraging the small and medium newspapers by giving them more and more advertisements. We are cutting the cost from the big newspapers and diverting it to the small and medium newspapers.

SHRIMAGANBHAI MANIBHAIPATEL : There are some cases of small newspapers pending with the Government. By which time is the Government going to dispose of cases of those small newspapers who have asked for their quota?

SHRI P. UPENDRA : These quotas are given quarterly. I don't think there is anything pending.

SHRI RAM NAIK : The hon. Minister has said that all the requirements of the small

newspapers will be met. What are those requirements?

SHRI P. UPENDRA : I said, the total requirement is 5.65 lakh tonnes. This includes both figures of the small and medium newspapers; and we are completely meeting the full requirements of the small and medium newspapers.

[Translation]

SHRI BANWARILAL PUROHIT : Hon. Minister is talking of helping small and medium newspapers. News print is allocated quarterly to them. Whether they are medium or small newspapers, they get their allocation from five different divisions set up by you. And they have to employ five to seven persons who go to different places with money to take delivery. In such a difficult situation, you should change your policy for small and medium newspapers and give them the option to take delivery from the nearest indigenous factories, instead of compelling them to go to different divisions for taking delivery. In this way, if one hundred tonnes of newsprint are allocated and they are required to go to five different divisions to collect 15 to 20 tonnes of newsprint from each division, then they would be put to lot of inconvenience in collecting their quota from five different places. As such, I would like to know from, the hon. Minister whether he proposes to make any changes in this policy.

SHRI P. UPENDRA : No, these days allotment is being made from nearest indigenous factories. If there is any case in which quota is delivered from some distant mill, we look into it and make necessary changes so that quota is delivered from some nearby mill.

Doordarshan Relay Centre, Katihar

*358. SHRI YUVRAJ : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether old machinery is being

stalled at Doordarshan Relay Centre, Katihar;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the time by which the Centre will start functioning?

[English]

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING AND MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI P. UPENDRA): (a) to (c). A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT

A high power (10KW) TV transmitter was commissioned into service at Agra in February, 1985. However, it was decided to shift the location of the Transmitting Centre at Agra to an alternative site. With a view to ensure that there was no interruption in TV service in Agra because of the shifting of the transmitter, a separate transmitter was installed at the alternative site selected for the purpose. The original transmitter, thus released, was decided to be installed at Katihar as a measure of optimal utilisation of available resources. This transmitter is, nevertheless in a perfect working condition and well within its useful life span. Its installation at Katihar will not in any manner adversely affect the requirement of the area.

The installation of the TV transmitter at Katihar is scheduled to be completed in the course of next few months.

[Translation]

SHRI YUVRAJ: Mr. Speaker, Sir, may I know as to why an old machinery of Agra is being installed at Doordarshan Relay Centre at Katihar? Even before asking this question, I had invited attention of the House to this matter under rule 377. A high power (10 kw) TV transmitter was commissioned at Agra in February, 1985. However, it was decided by the Government to shift the loca-

tion of the transmission centre at Agra to an alternative site and the original transmitter, thus released was installed at Katihar and a new transmitter was installed at the alternative site, why? Hon. Minister knows it that I had received a letter from district authorities of Katihar and when even after drawing the House's attention to the matter, no action was taken by the Government, I am forced to ask this question. I would like to know when the location of the transmission centre at Agra was shifted, why was the old transmitter not installed at the alternative site selected for the purpose and a new one was installed and why that old transmitter was sent to be installed at Katihar.

SHRI P. UPENDRA: In this connection, the hon. Member had met me and we had discussed the matter in detail. This is correct that a high power (10 KW) TV transmitter was installed at the alternative site in Agra because as per the opinion of Department of Culture, the surrounding areas of Taj Mahal were being adversely affected by the old centre. Therefore, the centre was shifted to Chamrauli Village which is three kilometres away from the original location. Had this not been done, transmission from Agra station would have come to a standstill. After that, that machine was taken to Katihar. That transmitter was installed at Katihar only after it was tested for being in perfect working order and well within its useful life span since its life span is fifteen years. We will replace it if it does not work properly.

[English]

Even before ten years we will replace it by a new one if it does not work. I can assure the hon. Member that we will take all steps to see that the transmitter works properly; otherwise it will take another two years to get a new one. If they are prepared to wait for that, we can study that. But already it has been installed. The building is ready. Everything is ready. In another two months we are going to start it. At this stage, if we stop it, it may not be to the liking of the people.

[*Translation*]

SHRI YUVRAJ: Mr. Speaker, Sir, people and district authorities of Katihar are very unhappy over this matter. I have received a large number of letters in this regard. I would like to know when the new transmitter installed at the alternative site of the Transmission Centre at Agra or Chamrauli is of the same power (10 kw), then how can you say that it would have taken time to arrange for a new transmitter and it would have resulted in closing down the transmission at Agra. People in Katihar have strongly protested against the installation of old transmitter and it is lying as it is at Katihar. You have also said that its life span is ten years, out of which nearly six years have already passed. Therefore, you will have to change that machine again after four years. So, why don't you shift that machine to some other place before long? I would like to know that since this issue has caused great resentment among the people and district authorities in Katihar, why does not the hon. Minister want to install some new machine at Katihar instead of the old one? If he is ready to install a new machine at Katihar, then by what time will it be commissioned?

SHRI P. UPENDRA: As I have already said, the life span of that machine is fifteen years and not ten years, as hon. Member is saying. Out of these 15 years, ten years are still left. I would like to assure hon. Member that if need be, I will myself accompany him to Katihar and see what the problem is. If you are satisfied with its functioning and performance, only then it will be installed. It will be replaced immediately if it does not work properly.

PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT: Mr. Speaker, Sir, such old transmitters have been installed at various other parts of the country. Does the hon. Minister have the information as to where all those machines have been installed and what are the complaints about their functioning?

[*English*]

SHRI. P. UPENDRA: It is a common

practice that whenever the lower power transmitter by a higher power transmitter; sometimes we take it from one place to another depending upon the life of the transmitter.

[*Translation*]

SHRI SATYNARAYAN JATIYA: Mr. Speaker Sir, the issue is not that of old and new machines but of the quality of transmission from various transmission centres. If the quality of transmission is upto the mark, then none will have any objection. But as a matter of fact, the quality of transmission of a number of relay centre is very poor. I would like to tell you that despite the fact that transmitters of very high capacity are installed at many centres in the country, the quality of transmission is very disappointing. You think that since the transmitters of high capacity have been installed, the entire area must have been covered but the factual position is that the transmission is as poor as before. Our problem is that people of Ujjain are receiving very poor land disturbed transmission due to some fault in the transmitter installed at Indore. Therefore, I would like to know as to action is being taken by you to improve the quality of transmission at such stations.

SHRI P. UPENDRA: The original question relates to the commission of transmitter installed at Katihar which has not been commissioned as yet. Only the local viewers would be knowing about the quality of transmission. Nevertheless, people from our department conducts tests in every area to find out whether the transmission is smooth or disturbed. If you have any specific case in Indore or any other place, then you may inform us about it and we will look into it and try to set it right.

SHRI DHARMESH PRASAD VERMA : Mr. Speaker Sir, the transmitter installed at our Betia station is also very defective. As a result, people of Betia are forced to watch the transmission from Daulatpur or Kathmandu centres. The transmission of these two centres is very clear whereas transmission of our centre is of very poor quality. I would like to know from the hon Minister

whether he will take steps to replace the transmitter of Betia also.

SHRI P. UPENDRA : I will see as to what can be done about it.

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Shailendranath Shrivastav (Absent). Next Question.

Losses in Regional Rural Banks

*360. SHRI DILEEP SINGH BHURIA:
SHRI K. PRADHANI:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether all the regional rural banks are incurring heavy losses;

(b) if so, the total losses incurred by these banks as on 31 March, 1990; and

(c) the action proposed to be taken by Government to remedy the situation?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE): (a) to (c). A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT

(a) to (c). National Bank for agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD) has reported that out of 196 Regional Rural Banks (RRBs) functioning in the country, information is available with them in respect of 194 RRBs. As on 31st March 1989 their working results show that 46 RRBs have earned profits amounting to Rs. 1474 crores whereas 148 RRBs have incurred losses aggregating Rs. 61.39 crores. The accumulated losses of all the RRBs as on 31st March 1989 stood at Rs. 191.04 crores.

The financial position of RRBs which are incurring continuous loss is being monitored by NABARD every quarter and remedial action is suggested to the concerned RRBs and their sponsor banks. Based on the recommendations of the Working

Group on RRB (Kelkar Committee), several positive measures have been taken to strengthen RRBs, such as enhancement in their issued capital, reduction in the interest rate on refinance provided by sponsor banks from 8.5% to 7% and investment of surplus SLR funds of RRBs in Government securities of better yield etc.

Sponsor Banks have also been advised to play a more active role in fund management, staff training and internal audit of Regional Rural Banks (RRBs).

[Translation]

SHRI DILEEP SINGH BHURIA : Mr. Speaker, Sir, A cursory reading of the statement laid on the Table of the House by the hon. Minister gives an impression that the regional rural banks are likely to face crisis of existence in near future. These banks were set up with a view to giving credit to villages and freeing them from the clutches of middlemen. National Front Government announced the waiver of loans, but could not issue certificate to this effect to farmers, as a result thereof farmers would be declared defaulters by April or May this year and would be rendered ineligible for taking fresh loans from any bank. Hon. Minister has made a provision of Rs 1000 crores only for waiver of loans. Will it be sufficient for waiver of all kinds of loans of all farmers ? Secondly, the ruling party has made a promise to the people that they would write off bank loans of all the farmers if they are voted to power. People reposing faith in their assurance voted them to power. Why don't the Government clearly declare the total amount of bank loans outstanding against the farmers and the time by which these loans would be written off? In absence of any clear-cut announcement by the Government, farmers would be forced to go to middlemen again. This is all I would like to know.

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE: Mr. Speaker Sir, though the original question is quite different, yet I would like to reply the question put to me. During the course of my reply on budget discussion, I replied this

point in detail. However, I would like to repeat it if you permit me. We have laid down certain parameters regarding waiver of loans and the total amount of loans given by the public sector banks and the rural regional banks including the loans given by co-operative banks is about Rs. 2800 crores. As regards waiver of loans given by the co-operative banks, burden can be shared between the states and the Centre in ratio of 45:55 or 50:50. However, I do not want to put pressure on them. However, loans upto Rs. 10000/- given by the regional rural banks and public sector banks would be written off with the Central assistance. You need not worry on this account.

SHRIDILEEP SINGH BHURIA: Through my second supplementary, I would like to know by when the amount of waiver of loans will be credited to the concerned banks by the Central Government as neither any recovery is being made by the banks nor any deposits are received by them from the public after announcement of waiver of loans. As a result thereof, banks are facing financial crisis. They are not even in position to disburse salary to their employees including managers. The people voted you to power with high hope believing at the face value of your manifesto, so why are you hesitating in making a clear-cut announcement in this regard?

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE: I would like to thank you for your compliment that the people have voted us to power. Now I come to the original question in reply to which I clearly stated that the viability of the rural regional banks would not be impaired as there would not be any additional burden on them. The waiver of loan scheme would be financed through central budget. So you need not worry as to what is there in our manifesto.

SHRI JAGPAL SINGH: Will you kindly give the time limit by which the loans would be written off?

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE: Mr. Speaker, Sir, it has been the practice of the

House that only those members in whose names original question is slated, are permitted to put supplementary thereon. It seems that other members are putting supplementary (Interruptions)

SHRI DILEEP SINGH BHURIA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, how much time will it take?

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE: Will you please give me some time to reply to your question about time. I would like to submit that as soon as Finance Bill is passed by the House and budget session is over, we will start working on it. We have made provision for it.

[English]

SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY: The main question is regarding the Regional Rural Banks. It is a low cost structure. The Regional Rural Banks are low cost structure. These Regional Rural Banks are doing very good job in the rural areas serving the poor people, particularly the weaker sections. Now, the new Regional Rural Banks are incurring losses and the old and established Regional Rural Banks are not incurring any losses. But there is a demand from certain quarters that the Regional Rural Banks should be merged with the nationalised banks. The culture of the nationalised banks are quite different from that of regional rural banks. May I know from the hon. Minister whether he is going to categorically state that there will not be any merger of Regional Rural Banks with the nationalised banks?

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE: Sir, when the previous Government was there, there was a Kelkar Committee (Interruptions) I am replying to the question. Sir, there have been various suggestions. One of the suggestions has been that the Regional Rural Bank should be merged with the sponsoring bank. We are not in favour of this proposal at all. On the contrary, there was a Committee which had made very constructive suggestions. One is that the reason for RRBs incurring losses is mainly due to the impact of the narrow spread, restriction and choice of

classes, areas of operation as well as other restrictions and therefore they have suggested that we should provide them broader capital base, we should provide them less interest rate and we should be able to provide them better facility for investment. We will take those constructive suggestions into account and avoid the doubts which the hon. Members is having.

SHRI BAL GOPAL MISHRA: I would like to know whether the Government are aware of the fact that Bolangir Anchalik Gramya Bank of Orissa, one of the old Regional Rural Banks of the country has sustained a loss of Rs. 3.75 crores during last year. What action Government propose to take to prevent these losses?

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE: We were aware of the fact and we are taking due steps in order to see that the crisis is removed.

SHRI H.K.L. BHAGAT: Sir, the hon. Minister has stated in his Budget speech that the wilful defaulters who despite their capacity to repay the loans will be excluded from debt relief and loans of only such defaulters who are unable to repay would be written off. In this regard, I would like to know from the hon. Minister who will decide as to whether a particular individual has capacity to pay or not. Will it not breed corruption? What arrangements have been made to check corruption in it? What are the criteria to decide as to which loans are to be written off or which not?

[English]

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE: Sir, I have already replied this question. I will again reply. We will not leave it to the tender mercy of the bank officers to decide who are the wilful defaulters. That will give scope for the corruption and therefore the basis for accepting a norm is one who has the capacity to pay and has not been paying and that should be considered by the banks to decide about the wilful defaulters, and the basis of the accepted definition of wilful defaulters which you were accepting all these years will not be followed. (*Interruptions*).

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

Proposal of Indian Overseas Bank for Assistance to House Builders

*351. **SHRI M.V. CHANDRASHEKARA MURTHY:** Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Reserve Bank of India has rejected the proposal of the Indian Overseas Bank to float a subsidiary company in association with the General Insurance Corporation for increasing the assistance to house builders/owners; and

(b) if so, the facts and details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE): (a) to (b). A proposal was received by the Government of India and Reserve Bank of India from Indian Overseas Bank to set up a housing finance subsidiary which envisaged a participation of the Bank with the General Insurance Corporation. The matter is under consideration.

[Translation]

Production and Export of Tea

*352. **SHRI RAMLAL RAHI:** Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there has been a decline in the export of tea;

(b) if so, the extent of fall in the exports during the last three years, year-wise and the reasons therefor;

(c) the projections in regard to exports of tea by India by the end of this century;

(d) whether tea production has also gone down; and

(e) if so, the steps being taken to increase its production?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND

TOURISM (SHRI ARUN KUMAR NEHRU).
(a) and (b). Quantity and value of exports of tea from India during the last four years are as under:—

<i>Year</i>	<i>Quantity (Million kgs.)</i>	<i>Value (Rs. in Crores)</i>
1986-87	200.04	615.00
1987-88	207.57	621.82
1988-89 (Prov)	208.42	614.26
1989-90 (Prov) (April-Feb.)	192.67	812.63

The figures above would show that there is no decline in the exports.

(c) Projections in regard to exports of tea by the end of this century have not been made by the Government. However, the proposed target for exports of tea by India by the end of the VIII Five Year Plan is 305 Million Kgs.

(d) and (e). The Table below indicates the production of tea in India during the last five years:—

<i>Year</i>	<i>Production (Million Kgs.)</i>
1985-86	648.96
1986-87	621.40
1987-88	683.81
1988-89	683.59
1989-90 (April-December)	648.34

However, from a record production of 701 Million Kgs. during the calendar year 1988, production during the year 1989 came down to 684.13 million kgs. This shortfall was mainly on account of adverse weather conditions in South India and in parts of North East of India.

The Tea Board is implementing various schemes for increasing production and productivity of tea. These include schemes for new planting, replanting, rejuvenation/pruning, infilling, cultivation of tea in non-traditional areas, and Research and Development (R&D) activities. In addition, Tea Board is also providing financial incentives for tea machinery with a view to improve processing of tea.

[English]

Guidelines to Banks for Granting Loans

*355. SHRI CHIRANJI LAL SHARMA:
Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state the nature and main features of guidelines to banks on grant of loans?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE): Reserve Bank of India (RBI) issues detailed guidelines from time to time to banks on grant of loans to borrowers. The management of the banks lays down the policies and instructions keeping in view the various circulars of RBI. It has to be ensured that loans and advances are made with the following three basic objectives:

- (i) To grant advances on a sound and realisable basis.
- (ii) To invest the bank's funds profitably subject to instructions and advice of RBI in matter of lending to specified sectors where considerations of profitability have to be harmonised with wider national objectives.
- (iii) To serve the legitimate credit needs of the community in its areas of operations for productive and other desirable purposes.

The banks are also required to have an efficient system of monitoring by way of an internal system, inspection and reviews.

Committee on Pricing

***356. SHRI PYARELAL KHANDELWAL:**
DR. A.K. PATEL:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have set up a Committee to study the relationship between cost of production and market price of certain commodities like sugar, yarn and vanaspati etc. to determine profit ratio and eliminate excessive profits;

(b) if so, what are the findings of the Committee; and

(c) the steps taken to implement them?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c). The question does not arise.

Iron Ore Export

***359. DR. SHAHENDRA NATH SHRI-VASTAVA:** Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Minerals and Metals Trading Corporation is exporting iron ore to Japan and other foreign countries;

(b) if so, the quantity of iron ore exported by the Minerals and Metals Trading Corporation during 1988-89 and 1989-90, country-wise; and

(c) the amount of foreign exchange earned during the above period?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND TOURISM (SHRI ARUN KUMAR NEHRU):

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c). A statement is given below.

STATEMENT

Countrywise Export of Iron Ore by MMTC During 1988-89 and 1989-90 (April-February)

Qty: Million Tonnes

Val: Rs. Crores

Country	1988-89		1989-90	
			(April-February) (Prov.)	
	Qty.	Value	Qty.	Value
1	2	3	4	5
Japan	10.496	247.25	9.001	279.73
South Korea	3.112	71.53	2.551	79.34
Rumania	2.356	29.61	1.829	26.16
Hungary	0.031	0.70	0.010	0.33
GDR	0.612	11.29	0.660	16.51
Yugoslavia	0.036	0.81	—	—
Dubai	0.146	2.81	0.318	6.29
Kuwait	0.021	0.30	—	—

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Country	1988-89		1989-90	
			(April-February) (Prov.)	
	Qty.	Value	Qty.	Value
1	2	3	4	5
North Korea	0.343	6.20	0.345	6.99
Pakistan	0.338	6.93	0.338	8.83
China	0.151	3.82	0.251	7.34
Australia	—	—	0.149	5.05
Nepal	0.002	0.03	0.002	0.03
Grand Total:	17.644	381.28	15.454	436.60

[Translation]

Loans Advanced by Banks for House Building in Rajasthan

*361. SHRI GOPAL PACHERWAL: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether loans for house building have been provided to Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes, economically weaker sections and other categories including low and middle income groups by cooperative and other banks in Rajasthan as per the norms fixed by Union Government; and

(b) if so, the district-wise, details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE): (a) and (b). The Bank of Baroda, Convenor, State Level Bankers Committee, Rajasthan, has reported that the cooperative banks and other banks operating in Rajasthan have sanctioned loans to Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes, economically weaker sections, low and middle income groups as per the prescribed norms, in the State. There were 43.648 accounts against which an amount of Rs. 14.35 crores was outstanding as in December, 1989. The district-wise information of number of accounts and amount outstanding as in December, 1989 is also given in the attached statement.

STATEMENT

(As of December, 1989)

(Rs. in Lakhs)

Sl. No.	Name of the District	Amount	Amount Outstanding
1	2	3	4
1.	Ajmer	2578	75.33
2.	Alwar	2695	84.79
3.	Banswara	1046	27.52
4.	Barmer	1648	48.58
5.	Bikaner	952	28.18
6.	Bhilwara	2205	64.25
7.	Bharatpur	2254	67.23
8.	Bundi	932	29.11
9.	Chittorgarh	2048	59.30
10.	Churu	1146	35.16
11.	Dholpur	748	20.09

1	2	3	4
12.	Dungarpur	1146	38.79
13.	Jaisalmer	662	17.96
14.	Jaipur	962	122.31
15.	Jalore	1686	52.57
16.	Jhunjhunu	1090	38.64
17.	Jhalawar	1380	40.40
18.	Jodhpur	1537	46.34
19.	Kota	638	18.33
20.	Nagaur	1782	56.81
21.	Pali	2050	58.47
22.	Sawai Madhopur	1804	55.52
23.	Sikar	1501	46.05
24.	Sirohi	1432	43.31
25.	Shri Ganganagar	2780	100.88
26.	Tonk	898	27.59
27.	Udaipur	4048	131.25
Total		43648	1434.76

[English]

tion among different classes; and

Pricing Formula for Land

(b) if so, the details thereof?

*362. SHRIMATI BASAVA RAJESWARI: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the National Housing Bank has proposed a pricing formula for land, incorporating the principle of cross-subsidisa-

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE): (a) and (b). National Housing Bank has formulated a scheme for providing financial assistance for Land Development and Shelter Projects undertaken by public agencies such as Housing Boards and Area Development Authorities.

The Scheme has now also been extended to cooperative housing finance societies, professional developers as also rental housing schemes. The cost of land and infrastructure

facilities and the prices for various income groups have been fixed on the following principles:—

(i) Plots/units meant for low income groups	Below average development cost reflecting affordability for land and minimum shelter cost.
(ii) Plots/units meant for higher income groups	Near market prices.
(iii) commercial plots	Projected sale prices.
(iv) work places/institutions etc.	At or near development cost.

TV Tower in Haridwar

*363. SHRI JAG PAL SINGH: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to set up a T.V. Tower in Haridwar;

(b) whether land has been allocated by Uttar Pradesh Government for the construction of TV tower there; and

(c) if so, the time by which it is likely to be set up?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING AND MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI P. UPENDRA): (a) to (c). A low power (100W) TV transmitter has been installed at Haridwar on the land site acquired by Doordarshan from the Government of Uttar Pradesh. It has so far not been possible to commission the transmitter into regular service because of the non-availability of power supply. Doordarshan have, however, installed a diesel generator at the transmitter site for evening transmission on trial basis with effect from April 4, 1990, pending availability of regular power supply from the State Governments.

Selection of Feature Films for Telecast

*364. SHRI SANAT KUMAR MANDAL: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) how the films shown on Doordarshan are selected by the Delhi and other Kendras;

(b) the guidelines laid down, if any, for selection of Sunday feature films, including those in regional languages and the classics;

(c) the manner in which amount payable is determined in case of current Hindi feature films, those in regional languages and the old classics in Hindustani;

(d) the rationale behind telecasting flopped Hindi films on many Sundays; and

(e) whether there is a rethinking about present procedure with a view to selecting quality films only?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING AND MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI P. UPENDRA): (a) and (b). Hindi feature films including old classics for telecast on the national network are selected from the films

offered by the producers/rightholders by the Film Selection Committee at the Directorate General, Doordarshan, on the basis of the following broad criteria;

(i) National/International/State Awards won

(ii) Thematic Value

(iii) Cinematic Value

(iv) Entertainment Value

(v) Suitability for family viewing

(vi) Year of production.

Feature films produced 25 years ago only are considered for telecast in the old classics category.

Regional feature films, which have won any of the following national awards/panorama status, are eligible for telecast on the national network on Sunday:—

(i) National Award for the Best or Second Best feature film of the year (in all languages combined);

(ii) President's Award of 'Rajat Kamal' for the Best Feature Film in a regional language;

(iii) Nargis Dutt award for National Integration;

(iv) Indira Gandhi Award for the Best First Film of a Director; and

(v) Inclusion in the Indian panorama Sections of any International Film Festival of India/Filmotsav.

Regional language feature films for telecast by individual Doordarshan Kendras are selected by the Selection

Committees at the respective Kendras.

(c) A film Gradation Committee in the Directorate General, Doordarshan and such committees at the Regional Kendras grade the films in three categories, viz., 'A', 'B+' & 'B', for the purpose of payment of royalty, before telecast. Regional language feature films telecast on the national network on sundays and Old classics films are always graded 'A'. Payment is made as per the rates fixed by the Government from time to time. Black and White films are paid 25% less than the colour films.

(d) Doordarshan's choice of good films for telecast is limited to films offered for telecast by various producers/rightholders. Since the film production is mainly in the private sector, the Government do not keep any records of how these films fared at the box-office.

(e) No change in the present procedure of Selection of films is contemplated. However, to ensure that only good quality films are telecast, a review committee is reassessing the films which have been approved for telecast.

Illegal Export of Human Skeletons

*365. SHRI SHANKERSINH VAGHELA:
Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether illegal export of human skeletons is taking place from some of the North -Eastern States to Bangladesh for its onward journey to the Western countries; and

(b) the steps taken by Government to stop it and the results achieved so far?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE): (a) and (b). No such illegal export has been reported by the

Agencies charged with anti-smuggling work on the Indo-Bangladesh border.

Expansion of Banking Facilities in Rural Areas

*366. SHRI KALP NATH RAI:
SHRI UTTAM RATHOD:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the present number of branches of nationalised banks in rural areas;

(b) their number at the beginning of the Seventh Five Year Plan; and

(c) the details of programmes, if any, to expand further the services of nationalised banks in the rural areas?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE): (a) to (c). The number of branches of Public Sector Banks in rural areas as on 31.12. 1989 (latest figures available) was 33,640. The number of such branches as on 1.4.1985 (beginning of the Seventh Five Year Plan) was 29,837. The previous Branch Licensing Policy (1985-90) came to an end on 31.3.1990. The new Branch Licensing Policy is being finalised by Reserve Bank of India.

Abolition of Octroi and Sales Tax

*367. SHRI L. K. ADVANI: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the matter relating to abolition of octroi and sales tax has been under consideration of Union Government for quite some time past;

(b) if so, whether any decision has been taken; and

(c) if not, the reasons for delay?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE): (a) to (c). Both Octroi and Sales Tax are State subjects under the Constitution. Abolition of Sales Tax is not under consideration of the Government. Abolition of Octroi has been the subject of enquiry by several Committees and expert study groups like the Indirect Taxation Enquiry Committee, Lakadwala Committee etc. who recommended gradual abolition/replacement of the Octroi duty. This was discussed in the Chief Ministers' Conference held in 1980 and it was generally agreed in the Conference that the Octroi would be abolished in a phased manner. The Central Council for Local Government and Urban Development also discussed the abolition of Octroi in its various meetings and based on the suggestion of the Council, the Ministry of Urban Development have constituted a Committee to examine the question of augmenting the resources of local bodies in the event of abolition of Octroi. The report of this Committee is being circulated by the Ministry of Urban Development to the State Governments for necessary action.

Bank Loans Under SEPUP

*368. SHRIMATI UMA GAJAPATHI RAJU: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that the present beneficiaries of the bank loans under the Self-employment Programme for Urban Poor (SEPUP) is based on the outdated 1981 census and the formula of one person for every 300; and

(b) whether Government propose to review and increase the number of beneficiaries in the areas the scheme serves in view of considerable increase in population in the urban areas?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE): (a) and (b). Self

Employment Programme for Urban Poor (SEPUP) was introduced during the year 1986-87. Initially, the scheme provided for helping one beneficiary for every 500 population in Metropolitan, Urban and Semi-urban centres with populations exceeding 10,000 as per 1981 census. The scheme was amended and at present, it provides to help one beneficiary for every 300 population. There is no proposal for making any change in the existing formula.

Permit for Refund of Money to NRIs

*369. SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of cases in which is the Land & Development Officer of the Ministry of Urban Development had requested the Reserve Bank of India during 1989 to issue necessary permit for refund of earnest money to the Non-Resident Indians in foreign exchange deposited by them for allotment of plots of land in Delhi;

(b) in how many cases the Reserve Bank of India has issued the necessary permit;

(c) the details of the cases pending with the Reserve Bank of India for issue of such permits; and

(d) the time by which these permits are likely to be issued?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE): (a) to (d). Information is being collected.

Waiver of Bank Loans

*370. SHRI MULLAPPALLY RAMACHANDRAN:

SHRI A. ASOKARAJ:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Reserve Bank of India has formulated any plans to determine the genuineness of waiver of loans by nationalised banks and to prevent indiscriminate writing off; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE): (a) and (b). The scheme of debt relief announced by the Government will be applicable to borrowers who have taken loans upto Rs. 10,000/- and the same will cover all overdues as on 2nd October, 1989, including short-term as well as term loans. There will be no limit on the size of the borrower's land holdings. However, wilful defaulters will be excluded from the scheme.

A detailed scheme in consultation with the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) and the National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD) is being formulated for the implementation of the decision of the Government.

Returns by Banks and Financial Institutions

3698. SHRI HET RAM: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Income Tax Department has issued summons to all banks and non-banking financial institutions to furnish them the list of all transactions/deposits of Rs. 50,000 and above in year 1987-88 and 1988-89;

(b) if so, the total number of cases reported to the Department by banks/non-banking financial institutions;

(c) whether it has created anxiety and panic in depositors in banks etc; and

(d) the steps being taken by Govern-

ment to ensure confidence of public in secrecy of their dealings with banks etc?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE): (a) and (b). The Central Information Branches of the Income-tax Department call for information relating to financial transactions from various sources, which inter-alia include banks and other financial institutions and then verify the same with a view to detect tax evasion. Information in respect of deposits, bank drafts, telegraphic transfers and travellers cheques of amounts exceeding Rs. 50,000 is collected from the banks on a regular basis. Information in respect of deposits and bonds is also obtained from non-banking financial institutions. The Central Information Branches collected 8,21,632 and 8,48,123 pieces of information from all sources including banks and non-banking financial institutions during the financial years 1987-88 and 1988-89 respectively.

(c) There is nothing to suggest that collection of information by the Income-Tax Department from banks has created anxiety and panic amongst the genuine depositors.

(d) In view of the provisions of Section 138 of the Income-tax Act, the information collected from the banks remains confidential with the Income-tax authorities.

Academy for Training of Judicial Officers

3699. CH. JAGDEEP DHANKHAR: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether any steps have been taken by Government for setting up of an Academy for the training of Judicial Officers as recommended by the Law Commission in its 117th report; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF ENERGY AND MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI ARIF MOHAMMAD KHAN): (a) and (b). The Report of the Law Commission has been examined. It is proposed to set up an Academy for the training of Judicial Officers.

Report of Committee on Arrears in Courts

3700. SHRI MADAN LAL KHURANA:
CH. JAGDEEP DHANKHAR:

Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the report of the Committee of the three Chief Justices of High Courts constituted by Union Government in January, 1989 to look into the problems of arrears and suggest remedial measures has since been received by Government;

(b) if so, the details thereof and steps taken to implement the recommendations made therein; and

(c) if not, the time by which the report/recommendations of the said Committee is likely to be received?

THE MINISTER OF ENERGY AND MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI ARIF MOHAMMAD KHAN): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) The entire work of the Committee is expected to be completed within the next three or four months.

Kerala Demand on Share in Export Income

3701. SHRI MULLAPPALLY RAMACHANDRAN: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government of Kerala has claimed a share in the income from exports from that State; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and decision of Union Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND TOURISM (SHRI ARUN KUMAR NEHRU):

(a) and (b). Kerala State Export Trade Development Council made a representation to this Ministry vide their letter date 24.4.1989 mentioning that Kerala State has suggested to the Govt. of India that a percentage of the export earnings from the state be ploughed back to create a Product Development Fund. The matter was considered but not found feasible.

Women's Right to Joint Matrimonial Property

3702. PROF. SAVITHRI LAKSHMANAN: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Union Government have received any representation from women organisations to introduce legislation on women's right to joint matrimonial property; and

(b) if so, the steps being taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF ENERGY AND MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI ARIF MOHAMMAD KHAN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Enactment of law relating to joint matrimonial property would involve extensive changes in the laws including personal laws applicable to minority communities. It has been the declared policy of the Government not to effect changes in the personal laws of the minority communities unless sufficient initiative therefor comes from the communities themselves

Setting up of Mini Steel Plant in Goa

3703. PROF. GOPALRAO MAYEKAR: Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the persistent demand of the people of Goa for setting up a mini steel plant in Goa; and

(b) if so, the steps taken by Government in that direction?

THE MINISTER OF ENERGY AND MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI ARIF MOHAMMAD KHAN): (a) and (b). The policy for setting up mini-steel plants through the electric Arc Furnace Route in the private sector permits setting up of such plants only in Jammu & Kashmir, the hilly districts of U.P., North Eastern States, Sikkim and Himachal Pradesh. Fresh capacity in steel making is not being presently allowed in other parts of the country due to the existence of sufficient capacity in this sector.

Import of Copper

3704. SHRI N. DENNIS: Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state:

(a) the total copper output and its value during the last five years, State-wise;

(b) whether copper is being imported;

(c) if so, the reasons thereof;

(d) the names of countries from where such imports were made during the last five years; and

(e) the cost of the import, country-wise?

THE MINISTER OF ENERGY AND MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI ARIF MOHAMMAD KHAN): (a) Hindustan Cop-

per Limited (HCL), a Govt. of India Undertaking under the Ministry of Steel and Mines, Department of Mines, is the sole producer of primary copper in the country. The quantity and value of copper produced at the two

metallurgical units of HCL at Khetri Copper Complex (KCC) in Rajasthan and at Indian Copper Complex (ICC) in Bihar and toll smelted abroad during the last five years are indicated below:—

*Quantity in M.T.
Value in Rs. Lakhs*

Year	KCC (Rajasthan)		ICC (Bihar)		Toll Smelted (Abroad)	
	Qty.	Value	Qty.	Value	Qty.	Value
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
1985-86	17722	7993	12001	5412	14119	6368
1986-87	23000	10488	11393	5195	10170	4637
1987-88	20412	12594	10546	6507	11176	6896
1988-89	27864	22563	11732	9500	12524	10141
1989-90	28732	24125	11346	9530	8487	7129
(Provisional)						

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) The indigenous production being insufficient to meet the entire demand of the country, the balance requirements are being met through imports;

(d) and (e). The value of imports country-wise during the last 5 years by the Minerals and Metals Trading Corporation of India Limited (MMTC), the canalising agency, is indicated in the statement below.

STATEMENT

Country-wise Imports of Copper by MMTC from 1985-86 to 1989-90

Value in Rs. lakhs

Country	1985-86	1986-87	1987-88	1988-89	1989-90
	Value	Value	Value	Value	(Prov.) (Value)
1	2	3	4	5	6
Zambia	8062	3858	13062	9593	11863
Zaire	2208	2901	7955	9794	3220
Chile	955	1070	202	753	6555
Spain	—	305	—	—	—
Saudi Arabia	—	86	609	—	—
Yugoslavia	—	—	466	—	—
South Korea	—	—	—	323	—
West Germany	10	—	928	209	—
Turkey	—	—	—	40	1723
USSR	—	—	—	2225	3480

<i>Country</i>	<i>1985-86</i>	<i>1986-87</i>	<i>1987-88</i>	<i>1988-89</i>	<i>1989-90</i>
	<i>Value</i>	<i>Value</i>	<i>Value</i>	<i>Value</i>	<i>(Prov.) (Value)</i>
<i>1</i>	<i>2</i>	<i>3</i>	<i>4</i>	<i>5</i>	<i>6</i>
France	705	—	—	283	—
U.K.	1191	—	—	—	—
Belgium	20	5	—	—	168
Peru	195	—	—	—	—
Poland	—	—	—	52	—
Austria	—	—	—	6	—
Italy	—	—	—	1216	—
Others	228	—	43	—	—
Total	13574	8225	23265	24499	27009

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Approval of Oriya Version of Indian Penal Code

3705. SHRI GOPI NATH GAJAPATHI: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Oriya version of the Indian Penal Code has been sent by Government of Orissa to Union Government for its approval; and

(b) if so, the steps being taken for its early approval?

THE MINISTER OF ENERGY AND MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI ARIF MOHAMMAD KHAN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The draft Oriya version of the Indian Penal Code had been cleared by the Legislative Department of the Ministry of Law and Justice of the Government of India and returned to the State Government for the preparation of azure copies of the same for submission to the President of India for authentication under the Authoritative Texts (Central laws) Act, 1973.

[Translation]

Fera Violation

3706. SHRI HARIN PATHAK:

SHRI RAVI NARAYAN PANI:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of cases of violation of the Foreign Exchange Regulation Act (F.E.R.A.) which came to light during the current financial year; and

(b) the action taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE): (a) During the current financial year (upto 31st January, 1990) as a result of investigations made, prima-facie violation of the provisions of FERA have come to light in 3,744 cases.

(b) Show Cause Notices for initiation of adjudication proceedings have been issued to the persons concerned.

[English]

Steel Production

3707. SHRI M.M. PALLAM RAJU: Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state the actual demand of steel in the country during the last five years, year-wise and the actual production during the above period?

THE MINISTER OF ENERGY AND MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI ARIF MOHAMMAD KHAN): The assessed demand and production of finished steel is given below.

Year	Assessed Demand	(000 tonnes) Total Production (including inter-plan transfers)
1	2	3
1985-86	11354	10501
1986-87	11615	10978
1987-88	12585	11648

1	2	3
1988-89	13755	12841 (P)
1989-90	14310	12853 (Est).
		P- Provisional Est.-Estimated.

Outstanding Loans

3708. SHRI K. RAMAMURTHY: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the total amount of arrears of commercial loans given by each of the nationalised banks and other financial institutions of or under Union Government; and

(b) the number of companies/individuals/associations that have arrears of more than Rs. 10 crores?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE): (a) and (b). The data reporting system of banks does not provide information in the manner asked for. The total amount outstanding in respect of parties having drawing limits of Rs. 10 crores or more from the banks was Rs. 12341 crores as against the total amount outstanding of Rs. 79355 crores as at the end of September 1989 (latest available). The total amount of overdues of the banks in the cases of Large & Medium Industries, Small Scale Industries, Agriculture and other sectors was Rs. 12304 crores as at the end of December 1988 (latest available).

Restructuring of Overseas Branches of Nationalised Banks

3709. SHRI YASHWANTRAO PATIL: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is proposed to restructure the overseas branches of the Indian nationalised banks; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the objective in view?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE): (a) and (b). Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has taken several measures to rationalise, consolidate and improve the operations and profitability of the overseas net work of the Indian banks. The operations of the overseas branches of the Indian banks are being reviewed both by the Government and RBI on an "on-going" basis. The proposal for restructuring of overseas operations of Indian banks is part of this "on-going" exercise.

[Translation]

Minerals in Palamau (Bihar)

3710. SHRI JORAWAR RAM: Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have conducted any survey to explore the mineral deposits at Palamau district in Bihar;

(b) if so, the names of minerals found in this area; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF ENERGY AND MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI ARIF MOHAMMAD KHAN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The minerals found in Palamau district are Coal, Bauxite, Limestone, Dolomite, Graphite, Fireclay, Iron ore, Barytes, Andalusite and Steatite.

(c) Does not arise.

Rise in Prices of Natural Rubber

3711. SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether prices of indigenous natural rubber are rising thereby affecting small scale rubber goods manufactures; and

(b) if so, the steps Government propose to take to reduce the prices?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND TOURISM (SHRI ARUN KUMAR NEHRU): (a) and (b) The prices of indigenous rubber tend to go up during the lean production months and then with the improved supplies these get stabilised. During Feb-March the production is particularly low since tapping rest is given to the rubber trees.

The Government is taking all possible steps to contain the prices by resorting to adequate imports and timing their releases suitably.

Family Courts in Orissa

3712. SHRI BHAGEY GOBARDHAN: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have set up

the family courts for speedy disposal of family disputes particularly those relating to divorce etc; and

(b) if so, the number of courts already set up as on 31 December, 1989 in the State of Orissa.

THE MINISTER OF ENERGY AND MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI ARIF MOHAMMAD KHAN): (a) The following State Governments have so far set up family courts:—

Karnataka, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Rajasthan, Tamil Nadu and Uttar Pradesh.

(b) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Trade with Afghanistan

3713. SHRI SRIKANTHA DATA NARASIMHA RAJA WADIYAR: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to double the trade with Afghanistan;

(b) if so, the steps taken in this regard;

(c) whether Government have prepared any scheme therefor; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND TOURISM (SHRI ARUN KUMAR NEHRU): (a) to (d). Yes, Sir. The possibility of promoting economic and commercial cooperation is being explored. The focus is on increasing exports and imports of existing items as well as identifying new products that can be traded between India and Afghanistan. Industrial cooperation is also being considered to enhance levels of trade.

Overdrafts to States

3714. SHRI A. VIJAYARAGHAVAN: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Union Government have received any representation from State Governments regarding time limit for clearing the overdraft;

(b) if so, whether Union Government have any plan to increase the time limit for clearing overdraft, and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE): (a) Yes, Sir. Some States have represented that the time limit for clearing overdrafts with the RBI may be increased.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise

Agricultural Loans

3715. SHRI PARASRAM BHARDWAJ: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the terms and conditions attached to various agricultural loans advanced to the farmers by the nationalised and other banks

alongwith the figures of such loans advanced during each of the last three years and so far during the current year, State-wise; and

(b) the State-wise, amount of debt to be recovered by the banks from the farmers?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE): (a) and (b). The banks provide credit on liberal terms to agriculture sector, which a part of priority sector. The interest on crop loans upto Rs. 7,500/- is kept low at 10% per annum and the interest rate for any investment credit availed of by small and marginal farmers in 10% only. No collateral security/third party guarantee and margin are required on such loans upto Rs. 10,000/-. In addition to this, in the case of crop loans availed of by small and marginal farmers the interest debited in not to exceed the principal amount and on loans not exceeding Rs. 25,000/-, the bank should not charge any penal interest. Compounding of interest on current dues is not allowed in agriculture sector. All loan applications are required to be disposed within a fortnight upto a credit limit of Rs. 25,000/- and within 8 to 9 weeks for credit limit over Rs. 25,000/

The State-wise amount of disbursement and outstanding loans for agriculture (Direct Finance) in respect of public sector banks for the last three years 1986, 1987 and 1988 (latest available) is given in statements I, II respectively.

STATEMENT-I

Amounts of Disbursements made for Agriculture Sector (Direct Finance) by Public Sector Banks as on the last Friday of June, 1986, 1987 and 1988 (Latest Available)

(Rs. in crores)

<i>Sl. No.</i>	<i>Name of State/ Union Territory</i>	<i>Year 1986</i>	<i>Year 1987</i>	<i>Year 1988</i>
<i>1</i>	<i>2</i>	<i>3</i>	<i>4</i>	<i>5</i>
	NORTHERN REGION	463.57	554.40	508.65
1.	Haryana	85.24	112.43	121.84
2.	Himachal Pradesh	8.92	11.92	10.66
3.	Jammu & Kashmir	3.39	2.95	2.38
4.	Punjab	267.11	287.60	238.94
5.	Rajasthan	75.05	107.30	112.80
6.	Chandigarh	19.28	20.81	17.71
7.	Delhi	4.58	5.39	4.32
	NORTH EASTERN REGION	24.31	23.40	26.37
8.	Assam	15.66	14.95	14.45

<i>Sl. No.</i>	<i>Name of State/ Union Territory</i>	<i>Year 1986</i>	<i>Year 1987</i>	<i>Year 1988</i>
<i>1</i>	<i>2</i>	<i>3</i>	<i>4</i>	<i>5</i>
9.	Manipur	1.15	0.59	0.56
10.	Meghalaya	1.72	1.44	2.34
11.	Nagaland	1.60	1.90	4.18
12.	Tripura	3.34	2.53	2.85
13.	Arunachal Pradesh	0.25	0.94	0.57
14.	Mizoram	0.22	0.44	0.56
15.	Sikkim	0.37	0.61	0.86
	EASTERN REGION	234.58	240.66	251.90
16.	Bihar	92.52	96.11	111.52
17.	Orissa	53.96	58.16	63.45
18.	West Bengal	67.48	85.61	76.60
19.	Andaman & Nicobar	0.62	0.77	0.33
	CENTRAL REGION	304.49	401.36	441.73
20.	Madhya Pradesh	99.47	158.78	176.97

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Sl. No.	Name of State/ Union Territory	Year 1986	Year 1987	Year 1988
1	2	3	4	5
21.	Uttar Pradesh	205.02	242.58	264.76
	WESTERN REGION	349.20	436.90	497.28
22.	Gujarat	141.37	157.64	189.05
23.	Maharashtra	200.81	271.75	300.51
24.	Goa, Daman & Diu	6.96	7.22	7.48
25.	Dadra & Nagar Haveli	0.06	0.29	0.24
	SOUTHERN REGION	1263.58	1550.87	1663.41
26.	Andhra Pradesh	463.15	544.03	573.71
27.	Karnataka	264.90	306.49	234.01
28.	Kerala	142.04	212.38	275.34
29.	Tamil Nadu	384.65	475.32	564.32
30.	Pondicherry	8.86	12.45	15.90
31.	Lakshadweep	0.08	0.20	0.13
	ALL INDIA	2639.73	3207.59	3389.34

STATEMENT-II

State-wise Amount of Outstanding Advances for Agriculture Sector (Direct Finance) given by Public Sector Banks as on the last Friday of June, 1986, 1987 and 1988 (Latest Available)

(Rs. in crores)

Sl. No.	Name of State/ Union Territory	Year 1986	Year 1987	Year 1988
1	2	3	4	5
	NORTHERN REGION	1611.43	1826.28	2142.35
1.	Haryana	343.24	396.02	502.23
2.	Himachal Pradesh	33.43	49.90	56.04
3.	Jammu & Kashmir	19.30	21.55	23.46
4.	Punjab	635.93	740.78	812.26
5.	Rajasthan	387.64	413.02	564.89
6.	Chandigarh	158.37	158.86	134.13
7.	Delhi	33.52	46.15	49.34
	NORTH EASTERN REGION	97.06	104.55	127.58
8.	Assam	63.65	67.37	81.99

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Sl. No.	Name of State/ Union Territory	Year 1986	Year 1987	Year 1988
1	2	3	4	5
9.	Manipur	2.99	3.53	4.24
10.	Meghalaya	7.24	7.11	8.26
11.	Nagaland	8.74	9.54	12.01
12.	Tripura	11.82	12.38	14.84
13.	Arunachal Pradesh	0.59	1.43	1.66
14.	Mizoram	0.60	0.96	1.28
15.	Sikkim	1.43	2.23	3.30
	EASTERN REGION	878.49	1004.94	1170.22
16.	Bihar	328.14	396.10	480.33
17.	Orissa	207.49	236.23	267.95
18.	West Bengal	341.46	370.79	420.22
19.	Andaman & Nicobar	1.40	1.82	1.72
	CENTRAL REGION	1329.41	1406.60	1797.91
20.	Madhya Pradesh	441.90	516.58	652.98

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<i>Sl. No.</i>	<i>Name of State/ Union Territory</i>	<i>Year 1986</i>	<i>Year 1987</i>	<i>Year 1988</i>
<i>1</i>	<i>2</i>	<i>3</i>	<i>4</i>	<i>5</i>
21.	Uttar Pradesh	887.51	890.02	1144.93
	WESTERN REGION	1379.12	1405.70	1957.59
22.	Gujarat	564.08	514.65	805.23
23.	Maharashtra	793.08	872.02	1125.42
24.	Goa, Daman & Diu	21.76	18.53	26.40
25.	Dadra & Nagar Haveli	0.20	0.50	0.54
	SOUTHERN REGION	2953.86	3374.97	3951.54
26.	Andhra Pradesh	1042.55	1132.39	1327.43
27.	Karnataka	709.79	834.83	955.04
28.	Kerala	338.72	397.98	451.84
29.	Tamil Nadu	842.89	986.41	1188.66
30.	Pondicherry	19.54	23.02	28.24
31.	Lakshadweep	0.37	0.34	0.33
	ALL INDIA	8249.37	9123.04	11147.13

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Aid From U.S. Export - Import Bank

3716. SHRI BHAKTA CHARAN DAS:
Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to take financial assistance from the United State Export-Import Bank for implementing some projects in the country; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE): (a) No specific proposal is under consideration

(b) Does not arise.

Raids Conducted by Customs, Income-Tax and Excise Authorities

3717. SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE

PATIL: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of raids conducted in different parts of the country by the Customs, Income-tax and Excise authorities to check the amount of tax evasion, hoarding and smuggled goods during December, 1989 and upto February, 1990; and

(b) the total amount involved therein category-wise and the details of the defaulters?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE): (a) and (b). Details of raids/searches conducted by the Customs, Income-tax and Central Excise authorities to detect tax evasion and smuggled goods are as under:

	<i>No. of Raids/ searches</i>	<i>Seizure of goods or assets/ evasion or concealment detected (Rs. in Crores)</i>
1	2	3
Income-tax (December, 89 to Feb., 1990)	401	15.67 (assets seized) 25.94 (admitted unaccounted income)
Customs (December, 1989 to March, 1990)	1383	31.34 (Contraband goods)
Central Excise (December, 1989 to Feb., 1990)	266	7.29 (evasion detected)

Murder References Pending in Supreme Court

3718. BABA SUCHA SINGH: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of murder references pending in the Supreme Court of India; and

(b) for how long these references are pending?

THE MINISTER OF ENERGY AND MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI ARIF MOHAMMED KHAN): (a) and (b). Two murder references are pending in the Supreme Court of India since 29.4.1987 and 21.12.1989, respectively.

Hotels/Motels of I.T.D.C. in Karnataka

3719. SHRI H.C. SRIKANTIAH: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Motels/Hotels run by ITDC in Belur and Halebid in Karnataka;

(b) the number of new Motels/Hotels to be constructed there during 1990-91; and

(c) whether Government propose to construct Five Star Hotels at Belur and Halebid to attract foreign tourists?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND TOURISM (SHRI ARUN KUMAR NEHRU): (a) No motel/hotel is being run by ITDC in Belur and Halebid in the State of Karnataka.

(b) There is no proposal in the Annual

Plan of ITDC for 1990-91 to construct new motel/hotel at Belur and Halebid.

As per information received from Karnataka Government some private parties have approached them for assistance to construct 3-star hotel in Belur and Halebid.

(c) No, Sir.

Mica Production

3720. SHRI RAM DAS SINGH: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of mica mines in operation and production thereof during 1971 and 1978;

(b) whether the number of mica mines has declined after canalisation; and

(c) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND TOURISM (SHRI ARUN KUMAR NEHRU):

(a) The number of mica mines reporting production and production of mica during 1971 and 1978 were as under:

<i>Year</i>	<i>No. of mines reporting production</i>	<i>Total Production of mica</i>
1971	520	19,775
1978	251	14,274

(b) The number of mica mines reporting production had started declining even before canalisation and this trend continued after canalisation.

(c) The major reasons behind the decline in the number of mica mines reporting production are exhaustion of surface reserves, and the decline in demand for processed Mica due to technological changes resulting in development of synthetic substi-

tutes, and reduced economic profitability for mica mine owners.

Hawala Racket in Madras

3721. SHRI MANIKRAO HODLYA GAVIT:
SHRI R.N. RAKESH:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a hawala racket, involving a leading exporter from Madurai, has been busted with the seizure of Rs. 80 lakh by the zonal office of the Enforcement Directorate in Madras on 18 March, 1990 as appeared in the Indian Express dated 19 March, 1990 under the caption, "Rs. 80 lakh seized in hawala racket";

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether any arrest has been made;

(d) whether any inquiry has since been conducted in this regard and if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the action taken by Government against the culprits?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE): (a) to (e). The officers of the Enforcement at Madras conducted a search on 15/16 3 90 of Shri Mohd. Mazrook of Madurai staying in room No. 210 of Sindoor Hotel Madras. As a result of the search, Indian currency amounting to Rs. 79,99,700/- was seized. The seized amount of Indian currency in alleged to be meant for Hawala transactions.

Shri M S Mohd Mazrook was arrested on 16 3 90 and was remanded to judicial custody. Investigation is being conducted.

Low Power Transmitter for Keonjhar, Orissa

3722. SHRI GOVINDA CHANDRA MUNDA Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state

(a) whether Government have sanctioned a low power transmitter for Keonjhar in Orissa; and

(b) if so, its capacity/range, targeted

date of completion and the details of plan to upgrade its range?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING AND MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI P. UPENDRA): (a) and (b). A low power (100 W) TV transmitter each at Keonjhar, Joda and Anandpur are at present functioning in the district of Keonjhar, each providing service within the range of about 25 Kms, inclusive of the fringe areas, subject to the terrain conditions. It is the endeavour of Government to expeditiously extend TV service to the remaining uncovered parts of the district, as in other similarly placed areas, depending upon the availability of resources for this purpose in the future plans of TV expansion.

Serial on Kathakali

3723. SHRI T. BASHEER: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have any proposal for production of a serial on Kathakali;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the decision taken by Government about the production and telecast of Kathakali serial on Doordarshan?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING AND MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI P. UPENDRA) (a) to (c) Doordarshan have commissioned M's. Pothujanam Television Programme Centre, Trivandrum, to produce a 13 episode serial on "Kathakali appreciation Programmes". Its production has been completed and the serial made available to Doordarshan, for its eventual review and clearance by the Screening Committee before finalising its telecast schedule.

Release of Imported Rubber

3724. SHRI P.C. THOMAS: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to release the imported rubber in a planned manner so as not to affect its prices in internal market; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND TOURISM (SHRI ARUN KUMAR NEHRU): (a) and (b). Yes, Sir. It has always been the endeavour of the Government to safeguard the interests of the rubber growers while at the same time also ensure a steady supply of rubber to the consuming industry at a reasonable rate. The Government is taking all possible steps in this direction by suitably scheduling the quantum and timing of imports.

Rampura Agucha Mining Complex

3725. SHRI HEMENDRA SINGH BANERA: Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the land holders of the Rampura Agucha Mining Complex area has been paid compensation in lieu of their acquired land;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the criteria of determining the cost of land?

THE MINISTER OF ENERGY AND MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI ARIF MOHAMMAD KHAN): (a) and (b). An amount of Rs. 2,84,58,458/- has been paid as compensation to the land holders for acquiring 845.7 Hectares of land.

(c) Compensation has been paid in

accordance with the awards issued by the Land Acquisition Officer appointed by the State Government.

Asbestos Mining Industry

3726. SHRI A. PRATAP SAI: Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is sickness in asbestos mining industries;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor:

(c) whether Government are contemplating any concessions to miners to encourage indigenous production of asbestos fibre to achieve self-reliance; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF ENERGY AND MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI ARIF MOHAMMAD KHAN): (a) and (b). Though the number of asbestos mines in India has declined from 82 in 1987 to 70 in 1989, the production of asbestos has increased from 29528 tonnes in 1987 to 36502 tonnes in 1989.

(c) and (d). In view of the fact that asbestos mining is injurious to health of the workers, Government of India have taken a decision to stop further expansion in its mining.

The short-fall in indigenous requirement of asbestos fibre is being met by imports.

Adoption of Villages by Banks in Garhwal Region of Uttar Pradesh

3727. SHRI C. M. NEGI: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of villages adopted

so far under the Service Area Approach by the State Bank of India (SBI) and other banks in the Garhwal region of Uttar Pradesh, district-wise;

(b) the names of villages in Garhwal districts, district-wise, proposed to be adopted by the nationalised banks, with the name of the banks, during 1990-91;

(c) if no village has been adopted in the Garhwal region, the criteria for adoption of villages by banks and the reasons for non-adoption of villages in Garhwal districts under the Scheme; and

(d) the measures proposed to be taken for adoption of villages in Garhwal districts by the banks?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE): (a) to (d). The Reserve Bank of India has reported that the villages in Garhwal region have been allocated to various banks branches under Service Area Approach.

The details of the number of villages allotted to the branches of State Bank of India, Nationalised Banks and Regional Rural Banks in the Garhwal region of Uttar Pradesh is being collected, and will be laid on the Table of the House.

[*Translation*]

Weak Doordarshan Reception in Raigarh, M.P.

3728. **SHRI NAND KUMAR SAI:** Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether the reception of Doordarshan programmes is not clear in tribal dominated district Raigarh, Madhya Pradesh;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether Government propose to replace the existing Tower with a powerful one; and

(d) if so, the time by which it would be replaced?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING AND MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI P. UPENDRA): (a) and (b). The low power (100W) TV transmitter at Raigarh operating in the UHF Band is functioning normally and is providing satisfactory service within its range of about 15 Kms. inclusive of the fringe areas where fair reception is possible with the help of elevated antennae and /or boosters.

(c) and (d). While there is no approved scheme at present to augment the power of this transmitter, it is the endeavour of the Government to expeditiously extend TV service to the remaining uncovered parts of the district depending upon the availability of resources for this purpose in the future plans of TV expansion.

Opening of LIC Office in Hathras District of Uttar Pradesh

3729. **DR. BENGALI SINGH:** Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to open an office of the Life Insurance Corporation in Hathras District of Uttar Pradesh; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE): (a) and (b). Hathras town which falls under the Aligarh District of Uttar Pradesh already has a Branch Office of Life Insurance Corporation of India. The Corporation has no proposal for the present to open a new Branch Office in Aligarh District.

[English]

Recommendation of T. Chandrasekharan Committee on MICA

3730. SHRI A. K. ROY: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) the recommendation of T. Chandrasekharan Committee Report on mica industry and trade; and

(b) Government's reaction thereon?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND TOURISM (SHRI ARUN KUMAR NEHRU):

(a) and (b). A statement giving the main recommendations of Shri T. Chandra Sekhar Reddy Committee and the decisions already taken thereon by the Govt. is attached.

STATEMENT

(A) Main Recommendations of the Committee on Mica

1. Merger of Mitco With MMTC

It is recommended that MITCO should be merged with MMTC should function as a separate division of MMTC, responsible for Mica trading.

2. Canalisation Policy

It is recommended that there should be 100% canalisation of export of Processed Mica through MITCO/MMTC for exports to rupee payment areas. The exports of Processed Mica to GCA countries should be de-canalised.

3. Export Duty on Mica Scrap

It is recommended that the export duty on Mica Scrap should be withdrawn. A suitable MEP should be fixed, so that the export price does not reduce (at present the export

price of scrap Ruby Mica is around Rs. 8,700/- PMT and of export of Green Mica scrap is around Rs. 4,800/- PMT).

4. Labour Welfare Cess

The committee was convinced that the activities undertaken from the revenue collected from the Labour Welfare Cess were good and need to be supported. It is recommended that the present establishments (e.g. Hospitals, Dispensaries, Schools, etc.) for the welfare of Mica mine workers and their families should be continued. In view of the current expenditure on these activities being more than the current collections under the cess, it is recommended that the rate of cess collection may be increased from 3.5% to 4.5%.

5. Mica Mining

(a). Renewal of Leases

It is recommended that the concerned State Governments be asked to expeditiously take decisions on renewal of leases, within a specified time frame. It is the view of the Committee that considering the decline in mica mining activity, first and second renewals should be granted automatically to all lessees who have suitably 'worked' the mine. Environmental clearance and clearance for the mine. Environmental clearance and clearance for mining in forest areas be also expeditiously granted.

(b) The 'Working Plan' Condition for Mica Mining Leases

It is the considered view of the committee that it is very difficult to estimate mica reserves, as Mica deposits are extramensurate. It is accordingly recommended that applicants for Mica leases should be exempted from the condition of furnishing a five year working plan.

(c) IBM should open more technical cells in the mica belts for surveying and mapping of mica deposits at a reasonable cost.

(d) Mica mining should be declared as an 'industry' under the Industrial Development and Regulation Act.

6. *Research and Development*

It was the unanimous view of the Committee that considering the declining international demand for sheet mica, there is an imperative need for research and development not only in Mica mining but also for determining different new uses of Mica and Mica Products. It is recommended that the Government should initiate specific research projects for mica/mica products.

7. *Incentives for Export of Mica/Mica Products*

It is recommended that the following incentives for export be considered:

- (a) Extension of Section 80 HHC to cover Processed Mica, Fabricated Mica, Fabricated Mica and Mica Products.
- (b) CCS and REP licences for export of Mica Powder/Flakes, mica products like mica paper, micanite and other downstream products.
- (c) Enhanced CCS on export of Silvered Mica plates and Fabricated mica.

8. *Increase in Mep of Silvered Mica Plates, Processed Mica and Mica Powder/Flakes*

It was the view of the Committee that there is a need to immediately increase the MEP of Mica Scrap by around 25%. The

MEP of other processed mica items be also suitably increased. MITCO has accordingly suitably increased the MEP on export of MICA scrap and for different items of Processed Mica (on the interim recommendations of the Committee). It is also recommended that an MEP be fixed for export of mica powder/flakes of upto 325 mesh of Rs. 2200/- PMT and of Rs. 2700/- PMT of mica powder more than 325 mesh. It is also recommended that MEP be fixed on export of Silvered Mica Plates (with an increase of around 20% over the MEP applicable for different categories as existing upto 31st March, 1988). It is recommended that the MEP on different mica items should be reviewed by the canalising agency/Government positively on a six monthly basis. Suitable upward revision in MEP must be made keeping in view the international market trend as well as the changes in the exchange rate.

9. *Rationalisation of Mitco Management*

It is recommended that an immediate exercise be undertaken to curtail excessive overhead expenditure in MITCO in all the different areas like Staffing, Offices, Guest Houses, Foreign visits by staff, internal travel and entertainment, and advances to staff. It is also recommended that an immediate technical and financial analysis be made of the book value of the finished goods inventory of MITCO. The managerial cadre be also revamped so as to strengthen the marketing wing. The purchase policies for the canalised products be also improved and rationalised. It is also recommended that the canalising agency should restrict its gross margin, between its purchase price for 'Ready to export material' and the export price, to a reasonable level of around 30%. It is also recommended that the canalising agency must increase the quantum of purchase of the canalised products and simultaneously make greater efforts for export marketing.

(B) *Action already Taken by The Government*

1. *Merger of MITCO with MMTC*

This recommendation has been accepted by the Government.

2. *Export Duty on Mica Scrap*

Export duty has been withdrawn in the budget proposals for the year 1990-91.

3. *Increase in Minimum Export Price (MEP)*

MEP on Mica scrap and other processed mica items has been suitably increased. The Engineering Export Promotion Council (EEPC) has also fixed 'floor price' for export of Mica Powder/Flakes.

4. *Rationalisation of MITCO Management*

A conscious exercise is being undertaken by MITCO Management to curtail overhead expenses.

Construction of Tourist Homes/ Yatri Niwas in Punjab

3731. SHRI KAMAL CHAUDHRY: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have any proposal to construct Tourist Homes /Yatri Niwas in Punjab for the benefit and convenience of tourists/pilgrims visiting there;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Punjab Government has sent any proposal to Union Government in

this regard; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and the action taken by Union Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND TOURISM (SHRI ARUN KUMAR NEHRU): (a) to (d). The Central Department of Tourism sanctioned one Yatri Niwas at Jullandar at an estimated cost of Rs. 23.97 lakhs in August 1986 and released an amount of Rs. 15.00 lakhs towards this project. The Government of Punjab have submitted two more proposals for construction of Yatri Niwas at Mohali and Madhopur. These proposals are being examined.

Finalisation of Electoral Rolls in Assam

3732. SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether any final decision regarding finalisation of electoral rolls in Assam has been taken;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the progress made in this regard; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor and the time by which the work on electoral rolls will be finalised?

THE MINISTER OF ENERGY AND MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI ARIF MOHAMMAD KHAN): (a) and (b). Yes, Sir. The electoral rolls of Assam have been finally published on 23.12.1988 after intensive revision with reference to 1.4.89 as the qualifying date. The rolls so published contain 1,19,27,949 electors. Specific complaints alleging unjustified exclusion of names received by the Election Commission subsequent to the publication of rolls are being forwarded to the respective Election Officers for ensuring that all eligible persons are -

included in the rolls. This process is expected to be completed soon.

(c) Does not arise.

Problems of Southern Film Industry

3733. SHRI A. ASOKARAJ: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) the various problems of the southern film industry mentioned in the welcome address to him in December, 1989 by the South India Film Chamber of Commerce,

the Film Producers Guild of South India and also by the South Indian Film Industrialists Association; and

(b) the action taken by Government for resolving these problems?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING AND MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI P. UPENDRA): (a) and (b). A statement indicating the main problems/demands of the Southern Film Industry and action taken by the Government on these demands/problems is enclosed.

STATEMENT

The main problems/demands of the Southern film Industry mentioned in the welcome address to Minister for Information and Broadcasting and Parliamentary Affairs in December, 1989 by various film bodies and action taken by the Government thereon are:

Sl. No.	Demand/problem	Action Taken
1	2	3
1.	Excise duty on release prints of feature films should be abolished to combat video piracy.	In the budget proposals for 1990-91, excise duty on release prints of feature films has been abolished.
2.	The subject Certification of Films and the administration of the Cinematograph Act, 1952 should be transferred from the Ministry of Human Resource Development to the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting.	Certification of Films and the administration of the Cinematograph Act, 1952 has been transferred from the Ministry of Human Resource Development to the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting.
3.	A Senior Deputy Chairman of the Central Board of Film Certification with adequate powers to dispose of all matters other than those involving policy should be posted at Madras.	A member of the Central Board of Film Certification at Madras is already exercising some of the powers of the Chairman, CBFC.
4.	The Ministry of Industry should be persuaded to look into the rationale behind the pricing policy and the increases in the price of cine products by Hindustan Photo Films.	The price of cine colour positive films marketed by Hindustan Photo Films is mainly dependent on exchange rate of foreign exchange vis-a-vis rupee and the price of silver. The cine raw films is supplied by Hindustan Photo Films to the films industry according to the formula prescribed by the Bureau of Industrial Costs and Prices.
5.	More regional films especially those winning national and/State Awards or which have won acclaim or popularity should be included in the list of films for telecast on Doordarshan.	Regional films are telecast on the national network on Sundays and in the late Night chunk and also on Delhi and linked transmitters on the 4th Thursday of every month. These are also telecast from Regional Kendras. Considering the number of

Sl. No.	Demand/problem	Action Taken
1	2	3
		<p>films telecast from the regional Kendras and on the national network, the total number of films in regional languages telecast in a year is more than the number of Hindi films telecast.</p> <p>Even with the present eligibility criteria of national award and panorama status, a large number of eligible films are awaiting telecast on the national network. There is no ban on telecast of regional language films in the old classic category.</p>
6.	Rates of royalty for telecast of films on national and regional networks should be enhanced.	The matter is under active consideration of the Government.
7.	Retention of Delhi as a venue for International Film Festival should be reconsidered.	Accepted in principle
8.	Facilities extended to the films in panorama section or its delegates should be extended to films included in the mainstream section and both sections should be at par in all respects.	The matter is under consideration
9.	The charges levied on cinema houses for exhibition of 'approved films' should be removed.	The Government is reviewing the matter.
10.	High level Study Team constituted by the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting should consult major associations of film industry before finalising its recommendations.	The major associations of film industry were consulted before the recommendations were finalised.

<i>Sl. No.</i>	<i>Demand/problem</i>	<i>Action Taken</i>
<i>1</i>	<i>2</i>	<i>3</i>
11.	Cinema should be recognised as an Industry.	Film Industry is a creative activity not amenable to the discipline of Industries (Development and Regulation) Act, which is basically meant to regulate manufacturing activities. Besides the High Powered Committee on problems of film industry was of the view that the declaration of film industry as an industry may not be of significant help to it because in case it is regulated/licensed, it would be subject to certain restrictions/conditions and there may be some operational problems.
12.	Illegal view of videos of Indian movies must be prevented by forming a separate police force.	Enforcing of anti-video piracy laws is mainly a State Subject, The Ministry of Information and Broadcasting have already written to State Governments for combating video piracy effectively.
13.	International Film Festival should be made competitive	This is being reviewed.
14.	There should be easy access for shooting films in places of historic and archaeological value.	This demand was considered by the High Powered Committee on problems of film industry which recommended that rules and regulations for shooting films in restricted areas including historical monuments should be liberalised.
15.	Central panel constituted for the selection of Panorama films should have fair number of representatives from the respective regions.	Central Panel generally has adequate representatives from various regions.

Joint Meeting of Tea, Coffee, Spices and Rubber Boards

3734. SHRI K. S. RAO: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether a joint meeting of the representatives of the Tea Board, Coffee Board, Spices Board, Rubber Board and the United Planters Association of South India was held in the first week of February, 1990 by his Ministry;

(b) if so, the objectives for holding the joint meeting;

(c) whether his Ministry has proposed that the marginal land under coffee cultivation be brought under rubber plantation; and

(d) if so, the reasons for diversion of land for rubber plantation?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND TOURISM (SHRI ARUN KUMAR NEHRU): (a) to (d). Coffee is faced with problems of global surplus production, stagnant domestic consumption, and declining international prices. The Working Group on Plantation Crops set up by the Planning Commission had therefore suggested stoppage of further expansion of coffee cultivation and diversion of marginal areas under coffee to rubber or tea as may be appropriate. In case of both rubber and tea demand is more than the production and both these crops are more remunerative than coffee.

Government have accordingly set up a Committee comprising Chairman of Tea, Coffee, and Rubber Boards to examine in depth the feasibility and desirability of the idea.

[*Translation*]

Smuggling of Diamonds and Emeralds

3735. DR. MAHADEEPAK SINGH SHAKYA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether diamonds and emeralds are smuggled to foreign countries from Bombay; and

(b) if so, the number of such cases detected during the last year?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE): (a) and (b). Available reports indicate that though diamonds continue to be sensitive to smuggling out of the country from Bombay, there has been no case of seizure of emeralds by the Customs authorities at Bombay in the recent past. 19 cases of smuggling of diamonds were detected by the Customs authorities at Bombay during the calendar year 1989.

[*English*]

Demand for Voting Right to Indian Citizens Working Abroad

3736. PROF. P. J. KURIEN: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a demand for giving voting right to the Indian citizens working abroad; and

(b) if so, the reaction of Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF ENERGY AND MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI ARIF MOHAMMAD KHAN): (a) and (b). Under the law, Indian citizens employed under the Government of India and working outside India already have voting right. The question of granting voting rights to other Indian citizens working abroad, was considered by the Government earlier. It was however, not found feasible to grant them such a right. Suggestions have been received subsequently for granting them voting rights but there has been no change in the Government's stand.

[Translation]

Programme Produced by Jaipur Door-darshan

3737. SHRI GIRDHARI LAL BHARGAVA: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Programme Officers in Jaipur Doordarshan Kendra at present; and

(b) the names of the programmes produced by these officers during the last one year?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING AND MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI P. UPENDRA): (a) As on 19.3.1990 there were nineteen Programme Officers working in Doordarshan kendra, Jaipur.

(b) A total of approximately 1290 programmes were produced by these officers during the last one year. These programmes were in the category of rural development, agriculture, health, youth and women, travel, music including folk music and dance, literature, special news programmes, documentaries, children's programmes etc. etc.

[English]

Trade with Austria

3738. SHRIMATI CHENNUPATI VIDYA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether discussions were held with Austrian foreign Minister during his recent visit to India on the possibilities of expanding bilateral trade; and

(b) if so, the outcome thereof?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND TOURISM (SHRI ARUN KUMAR NEHRU): (a) and (b). Yes, Sir, the discussions and exchange of views with the Austrian Foreign Minister were of a general nature. The possibilities of expanding bilateral trade were discussed. It was felt that there was a good scope for expansion in cooperation in third country projects.

[Translation]

Smuggling of Sugar

3739. SHRI BRIJ BHUSHAN TIWARI: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have received complaints in regard to the smuggling of sugar from India on Nepal and Bangladesh borders;

(b) whether complaints have also been received about connivance of some Customs and Excise officers in the smuggling of sugar; and

(c) if so, the further action taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE): (a) and (b). Yes, Sir.

(c) The anti-smuggling agencies on the Indo-Nepal and Indo-Bangladesh borders remain vigilant against smuggling of all commodities including sugar. The State Governments have also been requested to assist in the prevention of smuggling by ensuring that sugar is not hoarded in the districts bordering Bangladesh and Nepal. Close co-ordination is being maintained between all the agencies charged with the responsibility of preventing and detecting smuggling on the Indo-Nepal and Indo-Bangladesh border.

The complaint that a sugar factory of Gorakhpur had smuggled out large quantities of sugar from India to Nepal with the connivance of the Central Excise officials could not be confirmed by the enquiries conducted.

[English]

Housing for Poor

3740. SHRI V. KRISHNA RAO:
SHRI C.P. MUDALAGIRI-
YAPPA:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state the specific measures regarding housing for the poor proposed to be taken up through the National Housing Bank?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE): The measures taken by National Housing Bank (NHB) to promote housing for lower income group, inter-alia, include:

- (i) Refinancing direct loans upto Rs. 1 lakh by primary lenders for accommodation upto 40 square metres or its cost not exceeding Rs. 1.5 lakh;
- (ii) Charging lower interest of 10.5% per annum on refinance for housing loans upto Rs. 20,000/- and 12.0% per annum on loans above Rs. 20,000/- and upto Rs. 50,000/
- (iii) Offering loans equal to 4 times the amounts saved under the Home Loan Account (HLA) Scheme to those seeking loans upto Rs. 50,000/- and charging of interest rate at 10.5% per annum on loans upto Rs. 50,000/- under that scheme;
- (iv) Charging of concessional rate of

interest at 13.0% per annum for core housing as compared to 15.0% per annum for other construction activity.

India New Zealand Joint Business Council

3741. SHRI R. N. RAKESH: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether a high-power business delegation from India visited New Zealand to participate in the second meeting of the India-New Zealand Joint Business Council held in Auckland on 12-13 March, 1990;

(b) if so, the names of the Members who participated in the Meeting;

(c) whether any new agreement has been signed; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND TOURISM (SHRI ARUN KUMAR NEHRU):

(a) Yes, Sir. The second meeting of India-New Zealand Joint Business Council was held in Auckland on March 11-12, 1990.

(b) A statement is given below.

(c) and (d). According to the Joint Communique issued at the end of the meeting, the Joint Business Councils accepted a commitment to work together for a greater flow of two-way trade and joint ventures involving technology transfer and trading arrangements both for the domestic market for re-export to other countries. To this end it was agreed that a Joint Study Group should be set up to devise an Action Plan which would identify new directions of trade, and develop a strategy for growth over the next, say, five years.

(b) The names of the Members of the Indian Delegation are given below:—

-
- | | | |
|----|--|-----------|
| 1. | Shri S.S. Kanoria,
Chairman,
India-New Zealand JBC,
Chairman & Mg. Director,
Kanoria Chemicals & Industries Ltd.,
Calcutta. | Leader |
| 2. | Shri M.V. Murugappan,
Co-Chairman,
India New Zealand JBC,
Managing Director,
M/s Carborundum Universal Ltd.,
Madras. | Co-Leader |
| 3. | Shri S.K. Ahluwalia,
Director (Commercial),
Steel Authority of India Ltd.
New Delhi | |
| 4. | Shri R. Arumugam,
M/s Gomathy Spinner,
Chittoor District (AP). | |
| 5. | Shri Narendra Kumar A. Baldota,
Mineral Sales Pvt. Ltd.,
Hospet-583203.
Bellary Dist., Karnataka. | |
| 6. | Shri Rajan Bhatnagar,
Matcon Export Enterprises Ltd.,
Bombay-400020. | |
| 7. | Dr. A.S.Bindra,
Hitech System,
New Delhi. | |
| 8. | Shri B.N. Choudhuri,
Bank of Credit & Commerce
International (Overseas) Ltd.,
Bombay. | |
| 9. | Mr. L. Cuxton,
Ludlow Jute Mills,
Calcutta. | |

10. Shri Ramu S. Deora,
Chairman,
Basic Chemicals, Pharamaceuticals
& Cosmetics Export Promotion Council,
Bombay.
11. Shri Kanai Lall Day,
Blue Flame (Agency) Pvt. Ltd.,
Calcutta.
12. Mr. William T. Drummond,
Madura Coats Ltd.,
Bangalore.
13. Shri Vijay P. Gokhale,
Union Carbide India Ltd.,
Bombay.
14. Shri J.M. Mauskar,
Basic Chemicals, Pharmaceuticals &
Cosmetics Export Promotion Council,
Bombay.
15. Shri Vinay Kumar Modi,
Bombay Tyres International Ltd.,
New Delhi.
16. Shri Mahendra Kumar Mohta,
Shree Bhawani Cotton Mills &
Industries Ltd.,
New Delhi.
17. Shri Kanak Nanavaty,
The Nutan Mills Ltd.,
Ahmedabad.
18. Shri D.H. Pai Panandiker,
Secretary-General,
Federation of Indian Chambers
of Commerce & Industry,
New Delhi.
19. Mrs. Durga Periwal,
The Premier Cable Company Ltd.,
New Delhi.
20. Shri H. M. Periwal,
The Premier Cable Company Ltd.
New Delhi.

21. Shri Fernand Costa Pinto,
ANZ Grindlays Bank Plc,
New Delhi.
22. Shri N. V. Raghunathan,
STUD India,
Madras,
23. Shri Anil Kumar S. Ruia,
The Kolhapur Sugar Mills Ltd.,
Bombay.
24. Shri D.C. Singhanian,
Singhanian & Co.
Advocates,
New Delhi.
25. Mrs. Ambika Sharma,
Federation of Indian Chambers
of Commerce & Industry,
New Delhi.

Member-Secretary

Fish Export

3742. SHRI G.S. BASAVARAJ: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) the value of export of fish during the last three years; and

(b) the steps taken by Government to boost the export of fish in the Eighth Five Year Plan?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND TOURISM (SHRI ARUN KUMAR NEHRU):

(a) The value of export of fish (i.e. marine products) during the last three years were:—

Year	Value (Rs. crores)
1986-87	460.67
1987-88	531.20
1988-89	597.85

[Source: MPEDA, Cochin]

(b) The steps taken by the Government to boost export of marine products in the Eighth Five Year Plan are:—

- (i) induction of new technology and value addition;
- (ii) modernisation of processing facilities, quality upgradation and reduction in waste;
- (iii) aggressive market promotion measures;
- (iv) stepping up export production by development of capture fisheries;
- (v) stepping up production of culture fisheries:—
 - (a) by increasing per hectare yield from shrimp farms; and
 - (b) by bringing more area under export production of shrimp by culture

Appointment of Port Agents by Scindia Steam Navigation Company Limited

3743. SHRIBABANRAODHAKNE: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have permitted the management of the Scindia Steam Navigation Company Limited to reduce the number of its employees;

(b) whether the management of the Company is presently planning to appoint port agents at Bombay and Calcutta rendering its employees out of service; and

(c) the steps taken to safeguard the interest of the workers?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE): (a) Shipping Credit & Investment Company of India Limited (SCICI) has reported that following settlement between the company and its employees' union, the number of its employees has been reduced in view of the vastly reduced scale of its operations.

(b) It has been reported that the company has not appointed any port agent at Calcutta or Bombay. The matter is kept under review by them.

(c) Shipping Credit & Investment Company of India Limited (SCICI) has reported that the company would not take any unilateral action causing undue hardship to the staff.

[Translation]

Control Over Income and Expenditure Accounts of Religious Institutions

3744. SHRI R.L.P. VERMA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any control by

Government over the income and expenditure accounts of all the major religious institutions in the country;

(b) whether any income tax or other taxes are due from such institutions; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE): (a) The Central Government does not exercise control over the income and expenditure accounts of religious institutions.

(b) and (c). Income derived by religious institutions qualifies for exemption under section 11 of the Income-tax Act, subject to fulfilment of certain conditions. Religious institutions notified under section 10(23C) (v) of the Income-tax Act are also exempt from income-tax. Under section 5(1) (i) of the Wealth-tax Act, property held under trust for any public purpose of a religious nature is also exempt from wealth-tax. Hence, income-tax or wealth-tax will not be due from religious institutions exempt under the aforesaid provisions. In regard to details of taxes due from religious institutions not entitled to exemption under the aforesaid provisions, the same could be provided only if the names of such institutions are specified.

[English]

Control Over Leasing and Financing Companies

3745. SHRI ANADI CHARAN DAS: SHRI BHAJAMAN BEHERA:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the State-wise/UT-wise, number of companies permitted by Government/RBI to collect funds from the public, to carry-out

leasing and financing business on consumer goods, durables and properties, etc;

(b) the steps taken/proposed to be taken to exercise effective control over their activities to avoid exploitation in respect of interest and repayment patterns and to the restricted availability of the facility to their sister concerns; and

(c) the quantum of business done by them in the last two years?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE): (a) Leasing and hire-purchase companies are not required to obtain specific permission of Government/ Reserve Bank of India (RBI) to collect funds from the public. The state-wise/Union Territory-wise break-up of the total number of non-banking financial companies which had submitted their returns, as on 31.3.88 to reserve Bank of India are given in the attached statement.

(b) the deposit acceptance activities of non-banking financial companies are regulated under the directions issued by the RBI to such companies. These rules/directions issued by the RBI to such companies. These rules/directions, inter-alia, provide for ceiling

on the quantum of deposits in relation to the net owned funds of a company, prescribe the maximum and minimum period of deposits, maximum rate of interest and rate of brokerage payable on deposits. The equipment leasing and hire-purchase finance Companies are required to maintain minimum liquid assets by way of deposit with the scheduled commercial banks and/or by way of investments in approved securities for a sum which shall not be less than ten per cent of the deposits outstanding on each day. The rules/directions also provide for penal action against those companies who violate the provisions of the rules/directions relating to ceiling on the quantum of deposits. These directions, however, do not empower the RBI to compel these companies to make payment of the deposits when claimed by the depositors, as acceptance of deposits by a company and their repayment is a matter of contract between the depositors and the concerned company and in the event of any breach of contract the remedy lies in a Court of Law.

(c) The quantum of business done by the leasing and hire-purchase finance companies, as reported by them to RBI in their returns for the last two years ended on 31.3.87 and 31.3.88, are given below:—

(Rs. in Crores)

Nature of Goods on hire	Hire Purchase Companies		Equipment Leasing Cos.		Others	
	1987	1988	1987	1988	1987	1988
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Automobiles	614.2	349.1	14.0	16.1	44.6	132.5
Household durables	57.6	36.7	1.3	2.7	4.7	21.9
Agricultural Implements	11.9	17.0	0.1	1.7	0.3	0.4

STATEMENT

<i>Sl. no.</i>	<i>Name of the State/Union Territory</i>	<i>Hire-Purchase Companies</i>	<i>Leasing Companies</i>	<i>Others</i>
<i>1</i>	<i>2</i>	<i>3</i>	<i>4</i>	<i>5</i>
1.	Andaman and Nicobar Islands	—	—	—
2.	Andhra Pradesh	24	—	286
3.	Arunachal Pradesh	—	—	1
4.	Assam	—	—	—
5.	Bihar	—	—	4
6.	Chandigarh	9	—	25
7.	Dadra and Nagar Haveli	—	—	—
8.	Delhi	85	25	860
9.	Goa, Daman and Diu	—	—	—
10.	Gujarat	3	5	1032
11.	Haryana	7	—	23
12.	Himachal Pradesh	2	—	6
13.	Jammu and Kashmir	17	1	54

Sl.NO.	Name of the State/Union Territory	Hire-Purchase Companies	Leasing Companies	Others
1	2	3	4	5
14.	Karnataka	16	7	265
15.	Kerala	10	1	316
16.	Lakshadweep Islands	—	—	—
17.	Madhya Pradesh	2	—	32
18.	Maharashtra	13	16	2025
19.	Manipur	—	—	—
20.	Meghalaya	—	—	1
21.	Mizoram	—	—	—
22.	Nagaland	—	—	—
23.	Orissa	—	—	2
24.	Pondicherry	—	—	2
25.	Punjab	154	1	98
26.	Rajasthan	—	—	34
27.	Sikkim	—	—	—

<i>Sl.NO.</i>	<i>Name of the State/Union Territory</i>	<i>Hire-Purchase Companies</i>	<i>Leasing Companies</i>	<i>Others</i>
<i>1</i>	<i>2</i>	<i>3</i>	<i>4</i>	<i>5</i>
28.	Tamil Nadu	102	7	791
29.	Tripura	—	—	—
30.	Uttar Pradesh	159	2	131
31.	West Bengal	18	8	831
Total		621	73	6889

[*Translation*]**Promotion of Foreign Trade**

3746. SHRI KASHIRAM RANA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state the total expenditure incurred on holding of trade fairs, seminars and other promotional efforts to promote National and Foreign Trade during 1985-86 to 1988-89?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND TOURISM (SHRI ARUN KUMAR NEHRU): The two agencies mainly involved in trade fairs, exhibitions and other trade promotional efforts are the Trade Fair Authority of India and Trade Development Authority whose expenditure is as under:—

(Rs. in lakhs)

	TFAI	TDA
1985-86	654.43	259.51
1986-87	869.25	312.36
1987-88	808.38	376.85
1988-89	1038.98	440.69

In addition, the various Export Promotion Councils also undertake trade promotional work.

[*English*]**Pre-Shipment Inspection and Quality Control for Exports**

3747. SHRI BANWARI LAL PUROHIT: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has drawn up an action plan to make the present system of pre-shipment inspection and quality control for exports more stringent; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND TOURISM (SHRI ARUN KUMAR NEHRU): (a) and (b). The action plan referred to in the question pertains to streamlining and simplifying the existing procedure of pre-shipment inspection. With a view to facilitating quality control from within the industry and exporting community, exporters and manufacturers are encouraged by the Export Inspection Council to assume the responsibility of ensuring the quality of export products through self-inspection and in-house quality control.

India's Share in World Export

3748. SHRI BASUDEB ACHARIA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether India's share of World export fell from 20 percent in 1950 to 0.5 percent in eighties;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) whether steps are taken by Government to increase its share of exports?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND TOURISM (SHRI ARUN KUMAR NEHRU): (a) India's share of World Exports fell from 2.1 percent in 1950 to 0.5 percent in eighties.

(b) The main reasons for the decline are the vast domestic market, lack of adequate surpluses for export, high profitability in domestic market, etc.

(c) Yes, Sir. The Government has initiated several measures to make exports commercially viable through upgrading industrial efficiency, ensuring supply of raw materials at competitive prices, strengthening the infrastructure and simplifying procedures.

FRG Aid to Modernise Industry

3749. SHRI DHARMESH PRASAD VARMA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Federal Republic of Germany has assured India regarding additional resources to modernise industry and trade;

(b) if so, whether any agreement has been reached between the two countries; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Does not arise

Duration of Programmes Telecast From Various Centres

3750. SHRI MANORANJAN BHAKTA

Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) the duration of the programmes telecast from various Centres;

(b) the time allotted out of it to English, Hindi and the other Indian languages; and

(c) the time allotted to educative programmes?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING AND MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI P. UPENDRA): (a) and (b). A statement containing the desired information is given below

(c) Most of the programmes telecast by Doordarshan contain a mix of education, information and entertainment. It is, therefore, not possible to classify programmes in any single category.

STATEMENT

Sl. No.	Name of the Kendra	Total duration of prog. telecast (Monthly)	Time allocated out of it in		
			English	Hindi	Other Indian languages
1	2	3	4	5	6
		(in Mts.)	(in Mts.)	(in Mts.)	(in Mts.)
1.	Delhi	26,960	8,000	14,000	3,760
2.	Bombay	9,899 (Ch. I & II)	789 (Ch. II)	1,548 (Ch. I & II)	6,832 (Ch. I & II)
3	Calcutta	5,190 (Ch I & II)	40	40	5,010
4.	Madras	12,270 (Ch I & II)	1,500 (Ch I & II)	630 (Ch. I & II)	9,550
5.	Jalandhar	5,400	8	1,248	4,556
6.	Jaipur	2,690	15	2,620	55
7.	Trivandrum	5,230	310	—	4,920
8.	Hyderabad	15,650	225	100	15,300
9.	Ahemdabad	4,800	—	120	4,440

Sl. No.	Name of the Kendra	Total duration of prog. telecast (Monthly)	Time allocated out of it in		
			English	Hindi	Other Indian languages
1	2	3	4	5	6
10.	Bangalore	4,700	60	—	4,600
11.	Lucknow	4,980	230	4,400	350
12.	Ranchi	800	—	696	104
13.	Rajkot	800	—	—	800
14.	Gorakhpur	700	—	700	—
15.	Guwahati	3,160	265	30	2,865
16.	Cuttack	3,420	100	75	3,245
17.	Srinagar,		284	4,436	
18.	Nagpur (Mainly relays programmes from Bombay)	120	—	—	120

Export of Edible Oil

3751 SHRI RAJAMOHANA REDDY Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state

(a) whether Government propose to export edible oil and

(b) if so, the quantity and value of edible oil proposed to be exported during 1990-91 and names of countries to which it will be exported?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND TOURISM (SHRI ARUN KUIMAR NEHRU) (a) and (b) Export of edible oils is not permitted. However, as a one time arrangement Government has recently allowed the National Dairy Development Board (NDDB) to export 25 000 metric tonnes of Mustard oil from its surplus stock.

Revision of Income Tax Return Forms

3752 SHRI P. M. SAYEED Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state

(a) whether the Income tax authorities have revised the tax return forms and

(b) if so, the benefits likely to accrue therefrom?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (PROF MADHU DANDAVATE) (a) Government has decided to revise income tax return forms. The notification in this regard will be issued shortly.

(b) The main objective in revising the income tax return forms has been to make them simpler and easier for tax payers to fill up.

Excise Duty/Income Tax Pending Realisation

3753 SHRI BHOGEN DRA JHA Will

the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to refer to the reply given on 29th December, 1989 to Starred Question No. 97 regarding outstanding Income-tax and Excise duty and state

(b) the steps taken by Government to realise the outstanding amount of Income-tax and Excise duty, and

(b) the time by which the outstanding dues will be realised?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (PROF MADHU DANDAVATE) (a) and (b) Appropriate administrative, legal and other steps as considered necessary are being taken to realise the outstanding amount of Income-tax and Excise duty. Most of the amounts being linked with court cases, efforts are being made to get the cases listed for early hearings and stays against the recovery vacated.

Non-Availability of GR-I Forms

3754 SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state

(a) whether export goods worth over Rs. 50 crore were held up in January 1990 due to non-availability of the GR-I Forms from the Reserve Bank of India

(b) if so, the details thereof, and

(c) the steps taken to ensure that such bottlenecks do not recur?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (PROF MADHU DANDAVATE) (a) to (c) Reserve Bank of India have reported that they are not aware whether exports of goods worth over Rs. 50 crores were held up in January 1990 due to non-availability of GR Forms. They have also reported that their Regional Offices are having adequate stocks of GR Forms.

Financial Position of UCO Bank

3755. SHRI CHITTA BASU:
SHRI JANARDHANA
POOJARY:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that the UCO Bank is facing financial problem due to difficulties in recovery of loans and decline in deposits;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the corrective measures taken by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE): (a) to (c). As per the published accounts, UCO Bank had earned published profits of Rs. 5.73 crores during the year ended 31st March, 1989 as against Rs. 5.21 crores during the year ended 31st December, 1987. Its aggregate deposits in India and its net domestic credit which were Rs. 3129 crores and Rs. 1724 crores as at the end of December, 1988 had increased to Rs. 4982 crores and Rs. 2663 crores respectively as at the end of March, 1989. UCO Bank's accounts for the year ended 31st March, 1990 are yet to be finalised.

The recovery performance of the banks including UCO Bank is being watched closely and banks have been continuously exhorted to improve their recovery performance so as to enable them to have larger funds through recycling and to improve their liquidity position.

**Scheme for appointing Advocate in
Public Sector Enterprises**

3756. CH. JAGDEEP DHANKHAR:
Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have any scheme to devise norms for appointing advocates in the Public Sector Enterprises and Undertakings;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF ENERGY AND
MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI ARIF
MOHAMMAD KHAN): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) The Public Sector Enterprises and Undertakings are competent to appoint their advocates.

[Translation]

Irregularities in New Bank of India

3757. SHRI SUKHENDRA SINGH:
DR. LAXMINARAYAN PAN-
DEY:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Reserve Bank of India had made a mention of the malpractices and irregularities in its annual confidential report of the New Bank of India;

(b) if so, the action taken by Government so far in this regard;

(c) whether the Bank had to pay penalty due to malpractices committed in the accounts; and

(d) if so, the amount of penalty and to whom this was paid?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE): (a) to (d). Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has reported that it has no

system of recording annual confidential reports on public sector banks including New Bank of India. RBI, however, conducts an Annual Financial Review of all the Public sector banks. The findings of the review are communicated to the banks concerned for taking appropriate remedial action for rectification of the deficiencies/irregularities observed in their working. The elimination of the shortcomings/rectification of the deficiencies are followed up by the RBI with the bank concerned.

RBI has reported that it had taken necessary follow up action on its report relating to financial review of New Bank of India with reference to its position as on 31st December, 1987. Since the report is confidential in nature, it will not be appropriate to disclose further details in this behalf.

Setting up of Studio under Door-darshan System

3758. SHRI SATYNARAYAN JATIYA: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) the policy of Government for setting up Doordarshan studios; and

(b) whether priority would be accorded to the cultural centres and places of historical importance and folk arts for setting up Doordarshan studios?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION & BROADCASTING AND MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI P. UPENDRA): (a) and (b). The establishment of programme production facilities at different places by Doordarshan is broadly governed by the following parameters:-

1. Establishment of Programme Production Facilities at the Capital of each State. This is in accordance with the long term objective to pro-

vide primary (regional) service in each State in the language of the respective State.

2. At selected places identified under 'INSAT Utilisation Scheme' for production of Area Specific Programme for the benefit of selected clusters of villages.
3. At selected places of cultural importance.
4. At selected relay centres (at places other than Capital and Cultural Centres) to cater to the localised needs of peculiarly distinct population groups.

Telecast of Serials Like Ramayana and Mahabharat

3759. SHRIGULAB CHAND KATARIA: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal to telecast a serial like the Ramayana and the Mahabharat, if so, the name of the serials; and

(b) whether Doordarshan is encouraging the production of such good serials, if so, the names of the producers and the serials?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING AND MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI P. UPENDRA): (a) and (b). It is the endeavour of Doordarshan to telecast high quality programmes on socio-cultural themes. This is a continuing process.

[English]

Relief to Deep Sea Fishing Industry

3760. SHRI D. AMAT: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have received representations regarding the depressed state of fishing industry;

(b) the steps initiated to extend relief to the deep-sea fishing industry;

(c) whether Government have examined the efficacy of the Shipping Credit & Investment Company of India Limited (SCICI) in formulating relief measures to the deep-sea fishing industry; and

(d) the steps being taken to extend relief to the deep-sea fishing industry on the east coast?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (d). Government have agreed to consider suitable reliefs inter-alia, by way of rescheduling of principal and interest of their loans, in respect of viable Fishing Companies from any part of the country, which come forward for rehabilitation. Shipping Credit & Investment Company of India Limited (SCICI) conducts the techno-economic feasibility studies in respect of such viable fishing companies willing to rehabilitate themselves.

Expenditure Incurred on Tourism Development in Andhra Pradesh

3761. **SHRI Y. S. RAJA SEKHAR REDDY:** Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) the amount spent by Government on tourism development in Andhra Pradesh during the last three years together with the names of places and work for which it was spent;

(b) the amount provided by Union Government to different States for tourism development during the last three years. State-

wise;

(c) the number of tourists who visited Andhra Pradesh during last three years and the number expected during the current year; and

(d) the additional new facilities being provided to the tourists in the State during the current year?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND TOURISM (SHRI ARUN KUMAR NEHRU):

(a) The Central Department of Tourism have released an amount of Rs. 167.74 lakhs as financial assistance for development of tourism in Andhra Pradesh during the last three years. The names of places and work are as under:-

1. Yatri Niwas at Hyderabad
2. Sound and Light Show at Golkonda
3. Water Sports and Recreational Complex at Bhavanipuram, Vijayawada
4. Water Sports at Rishikonda, Visakhapatnam
5. Water Sports at Nagarjunasagar
6. Kuchipudi Dance Festival
7. Additional Accommodation at Ramappa and Pakhal
8. Wayside facilities with accommodation at Lepakshi
9. Cafeteria-cum-accommodation at Nagarjunasagar
10. Floating Recreation Deck at Husainsagar
11. Wayside facilities at Palamner in

- Chittoor district from the State Government, the number of tourists who visited Andhra Pradesh during 1988 and 1989 were 122.6 lakhs and 170.2 lakhs respectively. Comparable figures for 1987 and estimates for 1990 are not available.
12. Development of Cottage Complex at Pulicat Lake
13. Beach Cottages at Rishikonda
- (b) The financial assistance released to different States for tourism development in the last three years is given in the attached statement.
- (c) As per the information available
- (d) The development of tourism is primarily the responsibility of the State Governments. However, Central Department of Tourism provides financial assistance on specific proposals based on their merit, availability of funds and inter-se priorities.

STATEMENT

(Rs. in lakhs)

<i>Sl. No.</i>	<i>Name of State</i>	<i>Among Released</i>
1	2	3
1.	Andhra Pradesh	167.74
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	16.00
3.	Assam	26.50
4.	Bihar	20.00
5.	Goa	22.28
6.	Gujarat	80.05
7.	Haryana	284.78
8.	Himachal Pradesh	63.72
9.	Jammu & Kashmir	223.04
10.	Kerala	462.66
11.	Karnataka	89.99
12.	Madhya Pradesh	79.18
13.	Maharashtra	43.53

1	2	3
14.	Nagaland	81.48
15.	Orissa	30.89
16.	Rajasthan	87.50
17.	Sikkim	41.40
18.	Manipur	29.25
19.	Meghalaya	44.00
20.	Mizoram	50.50
21.	Punjab	47.29
22.	Tamil Nadu	168.10
23.	Tripura	36.50
24.	Uttar Pradesh	227.98
25.	West Bengal	156.09
Total		2580.45

Note: Expenditure figures for the year 1989-90 included in the above statement are provisional.

Financial Assistance for Development of Tourism in Fort Cochin and Cherai Areas of Kerala

3762. PROF. K. V. THOMAS: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) the financial assistance given for the development of tourism in Fort Cochin and Cherai in the State of Kerala,

(b) whether these projects are progressing according to the time schedule; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND TOURISM (SHRI ARUN KUMAR NEHRU): (a) to (c). The financial assistance sanctioned and released for development of tourism in the area is given as under:-

(Rs. in lakhs)

	<i>Sanctioned</i>	<i>Released</i>
1. Provision of Boats for Cochin, Kumarakom, Quilon and Thekkady.	50.78	50.00
2. Luxury Cruises for Kovalam and Cochin	190.00	147.49
3. Yatri Niwas at Cochin	35.00	10.00

Above projects are in various stages of implementation. Release of further funds would depend on progress of the projects.

[*Translation*]

Irregularities in Providing Loans under I.R.D.P.

3763. SHRI RAM SAJIWAN: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether complaints of serious irregularities and corruption in approving loans provided under the Integrated Rural Development Programme (I.R.D.P.) and the Special Component Plan by the nationalised banks and regional rural banks are being received constantly by Government;

(b) if so, whether State Governments have ever been consulted on this issue;

(c) if so, the outcome thereof; and

(d) whether Government have taken or propose to take any action for redressal of grievances and providing relief to the loanees?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE): (a) to (d). All complaints against the working of nationalised banks including those relating to irregularities and corruption in approving loans under

Programmes for Poverty Alleviation, as and when received, are taken up with the banks concerned for appropriate action. Taking into consideration the seriousness of the lapse on the part of the bank staff, if any, management of the bank concerned take action against them as they deem fit in accordance with the service regulations.

The problems and grievances of Integrated Rural Development Programme (IRDP) borrowers are discussed in various forums such as High Level Committee for Credit Support for IRDP, State Level Banker's Committee, District Consultative Committees, Block Level Committees and Block Level Bankers' Committees.

[*English*]

Utilisation of Field Officers for Rural Development

3764. DR. ASIMBALA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Agriculture, Veterinary and Dairy Science graduates working in banks and other financial institutions like the Life Insurance Corporation and the General Insurance Corporation etc. and their break up State-wise;

(b) whether the above officials are

being properly utilised for rural development; and

(c) if not, the action proposed to be taken by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE) (a) to (c). As per information furnished by 17 Nationalised Banks there are 7389 Officers with Agricultural/Veterinary/Dairy Science etc. background working in various capacities, most of whom are utilised at the related field levels, in these banks. The LIC has reported that they do not specifically recruit Veterinary and Dairy Science Graduates. However, a graduate from any recognised university can be recruited on being found selected for Apprentice Development Officer through open competition. The GIC has reported that there are 520 Veterinary Officers on the rolls of subsidiaries of GIC in addition to 32 agricultural graduates. The Veterinary Officers are utilised for Development and Servicing of live stock and other rural insurances appropriately and the Agricultural Graduates are utilised for supervision of crop insurance scheme.

Censorship of Opinion of Political Personalities on T.V.

3765. SHRI S. KRISHNA KUMAR. Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have received any complaints about the Doordarshan censoring the opinions expressed by political personalities in their interview to the TV;

(b) if so, the number and nature of complaints;

(c) the action taken by Government on these complaints;

(d) whether any fresh guidelines have

been issued in this regard; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING AND MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI P. UPENDRA): (a) to (e). An interview-based programme on the role of Governors was telecast by Doordarshan on 8.2.1990 carrying views of some of the Hon'ble Members of Parliament. One of the participants has observed that an important part of his interview was not included in the programme. The matter is being looked into.

[Translation]

Romanian Cargo Ship

3766. SHRI BALESHWAR YADAV: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether any cargo ship of Romania was captured in the month of January, 1990;

(b) if so, the items confiscated from the said cargo ship;

(c) whether Government have apprised Government of Romania in this regard; and

(d) if so, the outcome thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE): (a) to (d). Acting on specific intelligence, the Officers of Directorate of Revenue Intelligence and the Coast Guard on board the vessel "VAJRA" intercepted a cargo vessel "M.V. COZIA" off Malabar Point, Bombay on 13th January, 1990. The vessel was escorted to Bombay harbour. The search of the vessel resulted in the recovery and seizure of 500 Video Cassette Recorders and 100 Video Cassette Players of foreign origin worth Rs. 78.50

lakhs approximately. The vessel was seized and released provisionally. The Master of the vessel was arrested and produced before the Court which remanded him to judicial custody. In the circumstances, no reference was made to the Romanian Government.

[English]

Under Invoicing by Some Exporters

3767 SH. D. M. PUTTE GOWDA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the exporters of ornaments, diamond, jewellery, chemicals and pharmaceuticals and others are importing materials and machinery by under invoicing them to convert black money into white; and

(b) the action taken by Government to stop this malpractice?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE): (a) and (b) Information is being collected and will be laid on the table of the House.

Appointment of Lawyers by Banks

3768 SHRI HUKMDEO NARAYAN YADAV: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state

(a) whether lawyers are appointed by the banks for dealing with court cases; and

(b) if so, the number of cases allotted to each lawyer in Delhi Region and Delhi Zone by the U.C.O. Bank, the Syndicate Bank, the Bank of Baroda, the Allahabad Bank, the Union Bank of India and the Oriental Bank of

Commerce, separately during the last three years and the amount paid to each lawyer for the purpose?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE): (a) The public sector banks engage advocates to attend to their Court cases.

(b) The information is being collected and to the extent available will be laid on the Table of the House.

Elevation of retired judge of High Court in Supreme Court

3769. SHRIGUMAN MAL LODHA: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether in the past retired judges of the High Courts were elevated to the Supreme Court;

(b) if so, their names and years of appointment with period of interval after retirement;

(c) whether the present Government approve the policy of appointment of retired Judges to Supreme Court; and

(d) whether the policy of transfer of Chief Justice and Judges is being scrapped by the present Governments, if not, the cases with reasons as to why the policy has not been followed uniformly?

THE MINISTER OF ENERGY AND MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI ARIF MOHAMMAD KHAN): (a) and (b). Yes, Sir. The following retired Judges of High Courts were elevated to the Supreme Court -

<i>S. No.</i>	<i>Name</i>	<i>Date of retirement as High Court Judge</i>	<i>Date of appointment as Supreme Court Judge</i>
1	2	3	4
1.	Shri Baharul Islam	1.3.1980 Gauhati	4.12.1980
2.	Shri K. N. Saikia	1.3.1988 Gauhati	14.12.1988
3.	Kum. Meera Sahib Fathima Beevi	30 4.1989 Kerala	6.10.1989

(c) Appointment of Judges in the Supreme Court is made in terms of Article 124 of the Constitution. The person considered most suitable is appointed.

(d) The Government adheres to the policy of having Chief Justices of High Courts from outside; the appointments and transfers of Chief Justices have been made in accordance with the policy guidelines.

Even though consultation with the Chief Justice of India is necessary in every case of transfer of Chief Justice and Judge, the Government considers the transfer of a puisne Judge only on the recommendation of the Chief Justice of India.

**Import of Machines and Raw Materials
for Haldia Petrochemical Project.**

3770. SHRI SATYAGOPAL MISRA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether his Ministry has granted the necessary clearance for importing necessary machines and raw materials for setting up of the Haldia Petrochemical Project;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND
TOURISM (SHRI ARUN KUMAR NEHRU):

(a) No application for Import Licence has as yet been received.

(b) and (c). Do not arise in view of (a) above.

[Translation]

**Setting up of Doordarshan Kendras in
1990**

3771. SHRI RAJVEER SINGH: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) the places in various States where Doordarshan kendras are proposed to be set up in 1990;

(b) the State and district-wise details thereof and the time by which these are likely to be completed; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION
AND BROADCASTING AND PARLIAMEN-
TARY AFFAIRS (SHRI P. UPENDRA): (a) to

(c). The State and District-wise tentative list of TV projects scheduled for commissioning during 1990-91 are given in the enclosed Statement. The commissioning of these projects depends upon the availability of infrastructural facilities at various places, time needed by the indigenous manufacturers to supply the required equipment and

such other factors. Besides, Doordarshan's Annual Plan for 1990-91 provides, *inter alia*, for establishment of 9 high power (including 4 for second channel service) and 25 low power/very low power transmitters, the locations of which depend upon inter-se priority for extension of TV service to uncovered parts of the country.

STATEMENT

State and District-wise details of TV Projects Scheduled for Commissioning during 1990-91

HPT	-	High Power (10 KW) transmitter
HPT (1)	-	High Power (1 KW) transmitter
LPT	-	Low Power transmitter
VLPT	-	Very Low Power transmitter
PGF	-	Programme Generation Facility

Sl. No.	State/Union Territory	District	Doordarshan Kendras Scheduled for Commissioning during 1990-91
1	2	3	4
1	Andhra Pradesh	Anantapur	HPT Anantapur
2.	Assam	Cachar Dibrugarh Kamrup	Studio, Silchar Studio, Dibrugarh 1. Studio, Guwahati (Pmt. set up) 2. Programme Production and Feeding Centre, Guwahati
3.	Arunachal Pradesh	Lower - Subansiri	Studio, Itanagar
4.	Bihar	Muzaffarpur Palamau	PGF, Muzaffarpur 1. HPT, Daltonganj 2. PGF, Daltonganj

Sl. No.	State/Union Territory	District	Doordarshan Kendras Scheduled for Commissioning during 1990-91
1	2	3	4
		Katihar	HPT, Katihar
5	Himachal Pradesh	Sirmaur	Transposer, Rajgarh
6	Goa	Goa	PGF, Panaji
7.	Jammu & Kashmir	Doda	VLPT, Kilhotran
		Leh	1. VLPT, Nyema 2. VLPT, Deskit 3. VLPT, Timsogam
		Kargil	1 VLPT, Pras 2 VLPT, Sankoo 3 VLPT, Padam
		Poonch	Transposer, Surankot
		Jammu	1 Transposer, Nagrota 2 PGF, Jammu (Interim set-up)
8	Karnataka	Gulbarga Dharwad Shimoga	PGF, Gulbarga HPT, Dharwad HPT, Shimoga

<i>Sl. No.</i>	<i>State/Union Territory</i>	<i>District</i>	<i>Doordarshan Kendras Scheduled for Commissioning during 1990-91</i>
<i>1</i>	<i>2</i>	<i>3</i>	<i>4</i>
9.	Madhya Pradesh	Bhopal	Studio, Bhopal
		Raipur	1. PGF, Raipur 2. HPT, Raipur (in replacement of existing 1 KW transmitter)
		Gwalior	HPT, Gwalior
		Bastar Jabalpur	HPT (1), Jagdalpur HPT (1), Jabalpur
10.	Maharashtra	Aurangabad Bir	HPT, Aurangabad HPT, Ambajogai
11.	Manipur	Manipur South Manipur Central	HPT (1), Churachandpur Studio, Imphal
12.	Meghalaya	East Khasi Hills West Garo Hills	Studio, Shillong Studio, Tura
13.	Mizoram	Lunglei Aizawal	HPT (1), Lunglei Studio, Aizawal
14.	Nagaland	Kohima Mokokchung	Studio, Kohima HPT (1), Mokokchung

<i>Sl. No.</i>	<i>State/Union Territory</i>	<i>District</i>	<i>Doordarshan Kendras Scheduled for Commissioning during 1990-91</i>
<i>1</i>	<i>2</i>	<i>3</i>	<i>4</i>
15.	Rajasthan	Udaipur	LPT, Salumber
16.	Sikkim	East District	HPT (1), Gangtok
17.	Tripura	West Tripura	Studio, Agartala
18.	Orissa	Kalahandi Puri	HPT, Bhawanipatna Studio, Bhubaneshwar
19.	Uttar Pradesh	Pithoragarh Bareilly Saharanpur Dehradun Sonbhadra	VLPT, Munsian HPT, Bareilly LPT, Haridwar Transposer, Mussoorie Transposer, Churk
20.	West Bengal	Darjeeling	Transposer, Tiger Hill
21.	Pondicherry	Pondicherry	PGF, Pondicherry
22.	Andaman & Nicobar Islands	Andaman	PGF, Port-Balir

News Item "Bokaro Ispat Karkhane Mein Sarkari Paise Ka Durupyog"

3772. SHRI GANGA CHARAN LODHI : Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state :

(a) whether the attention of Government has been drawn to the newsitem captioned these "Bokaro Ispat karkhane mein sarkari paise ka durupyog" appearing in the daily 'Jansatta' dated 14th February, 1990;

(b) if so, the reaction of Government thereto;

(c) the capacity of the Bokaro Steel Plant and its year-wise production during the last three years till date;

(d) the reasons for shortfall in production; and

(e) whether Government propose to fix responsibility for the shortage in production, if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF ENERGY AND MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI ARIF MOHAMMED KHAN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The news item has commented on the creation and utilisation of production facilities at Bokaro Steel Plant. The performance is periodically reviewed by the Government.

(c) The capacity and year-wise production of crude steel during the last 3 years is as follows :—

(In '000 tones)

<i>Year</i>	<i>Item</i>	<i>Capacity</i>	<i>Actual production</i>
<i>1</i>	<i>2</i>	<i>3</i>	<i>4</i>
1987-88	Crude steel	3108	2418
1988-89	Crude steel	3330	2771
1989-90	Crude steel	4000	2654

(d) Shortfall in production has been due to a variety of reasons. The main reasons are:—

(i) Unsatisfactory availability of power.

(ii) Quantity and quality constraints in supply of coking coal.

(iii) Problems of railway rake movement.

(iv) Unsatisfactory industrial relations situation and other managerial factors.

(e) The production performance alongwith the factors responsible for shortage are regularly reviewed by the Government and steps necessary to improve the performance are accordingly taken.

[English]

Newsitem "Need to Modernise Mining Industry"

3773. SHRI NARSINGRAO SURYA-WANSHI : Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state :

(a) whether the attention of Government has been drawn to the newsitem captioned "Need to modernise mining industry" appearing in the "Deccan Herald" dated the 6th January, 1990; and

(b) if so, Government's reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF ENERGY AND MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI ARIF MOHAMMAD KHAN). (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) In the overall strategy for the development of the mining sector Government has accorded high priority to modernisation of exploration and exploitation techniques with a view to building up inventory of mineral resources and conservation and optimum utilisation of available resources.

[Translation]

Bokaro Cold Rolling Grid Scheme

3774. DR. LAXMINARAYAN PANDEYA : Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state:

(a) the original cost of Bokaro cold rolling grid scheme;

(b) the expenditure incurred on its completion so far; and

(c) the production capacity of the said grid and the present production thereof?

THE MINISTER OF ENERGY AND MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI ARIF MOHAMMAD KHAN): (a) The original cost of Bokaro Cold Rolling Grid is as under :—

CRM—I : Rs. 105. crores (base 1966)

CRM—II : Rs. 336.29 crores (Base III Qr. 1974).

(b) An expenditure of Rs. 763.98 crores has been incurred so far on Cold Rolling Grid.

(c) The information on capacity and production of the Cold Rolling Grid is as follows:—

(Unit : '000 tonnes)

Capacity (After expansion)	Production (1988-90—Actual)
1,660	501.3

Scheme for Expansion of Tourist Facilities in Almorah and Pithoragarh Districts of U.P.

3775. SHRI HARISH RAWAT : Will the Minister of TOURISM : be pleased to state:

(a) Whether Government have formulated any scheme for expansion of tourist facilities in Almorah and Pithoragarh districts

of Uttar Pradesh during the Eighth Five Year Plan; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and steps being taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND TOURISM (SHRI ARUN KUMAR NEHRU): (a) and (b) . The Eighth Five Year Plan has not yet been formulated. However, the Ministry of Tourism extends financial assistance

to State/Union Territories for strengthening of tourist infrastructure on specific proposals based on their merits, availability of funds and inter-se priorities.

[English]

Tourist Bus Service between Patna and Basokund via Nalanda and Saraiyya

3776. SHRIMATI USHA SINGH : Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether adequate transport facilities have been provided between Patna-Rajgiri-Nalanda-Pawapuri-Ranchi-Vaishali-Basokund for visiting the birth place of Lord Mahavir in Bihar;

(b) if not, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether there is any scheme to develop the place of Bhagwan Mahaveer Thirthankar, Basokund, District Muzaffarnagar, Bihar to attract the domestic and foreign tourists;

(d) if so, the facilities provided to that place so far; and

(e) the time by which the transport, accommodation, communication and other facilities are likely to be provided?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND TOURISM (SHRI ARUN KUMAR NEHRU):

(a) to (e). The development of tourism is primarily the responsibility of the State Governments. The transport services within the State are operated by the State Government. According to the State Government of Bihar, the Bihar State Tourism Development Corporation operate package tours for Patna-Ranchi and Ranchi-Patna. Patna-Hazaribagh and Hazaribagh-Patna, Patna-Rajgiri-Nalanda-Pawapuri-Patna, and Patna Local Sight-Seeing tour. According to them local

transport is available between Patna and Vaishali.

Three Travel Circuits have been identified for phased development through the combined resources of the Centre, State and Private sector in consultation with the State Government. Muzaffarpur has been included as one of the centres in the Travel Circuits.

The Central Department of Tourism has schemes for giving financial assistance to State Governments for development of tourist infrastructure based on the merit of the proposal & subject to availability of funds and inter-se priorities.

Officer Nominee Directors in Banks

3777. SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether last year Supreme Court of India had decided that officer nominee on the Board of Bank as director shall be representative from majority officer organisation of the Bank;

(b) if so, details of the decision and steps taken by Government to implement it;

(c) whether the officer directors have not been appointed in some banks for last so many years;

(d) if so, names of banks in which the appointments are pending and efforts being made by Government to fill up these vacancies;

(e) whether in the absence of officer nominee on the Board of Directors the interests of the officers are not being protected by the managements; and

(f) if so, the measures being proposed to be taken for the protection of the interests

of the officer class?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE): (a) to (f). At present, there is no Officer Employee Director on the Boards of any of the public sector banks except State Bank of India. The matter regarding appointment of Officer Employee Directors was the subject of litigation in various Courts for quite sometime. Last year, the Supreme Court has held that it would be perfectly in order for the Central Government to continue the practice followed by it prior to 1982 or to hold elections of the representatives of the concerned Officer Employees and if necessary to amend the Scheme suitably for that purpose. The matter is being processed further and it is the endeavour of the Government to appoint Officer Employee Director on the Boards of the Public Sector Banks as early as possible. The interests of the officers are taken care of by the managements of the banks.

Coverage of all Districts by Doordarshan Transmission

3778. SHRI HARPAL SINGH PANWAR:
SHRIMATI J. JAMUNA:
SHRI SATYANARAYAN JATIYA:

Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether all districts throughout the country have been covered by Doordarshan transmission;

(b) if not, the districts yet to be covered, State-wise;

(c) the steps taken or proposed to be

taken to cover the remaining districts; and

(d) the time by which these are likely to be covered?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING AND MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI P. UPENDRA) : (a) to (d) . All the 412 districts in the country (1981 Census), except two, namely, Manipur (South) and Mokokchung are wholly or partially covered by TV service. The two uncovered districts are also envisaged to be brought under TV coverage during 1991 consequent upon commissioning of the High Power (1 KW) TV transmitters under implementation at Churachandpur and Mokokchung. Any further strengthening of TV service in the country depends upon the availability of resources under future plans for TV expansion.

LIC Business

3779. SHRI J. CHOKKA RAO : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) the business transacted by the Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC) during 1988-89 and 1989-90;

(b) the expenditure incurred by the LIC on the administration towards salaries, rents, office expenses, separately during the above period; and

(c) the amount invested by the LIC so far outside the Corporation and the annual income derived therefrom?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE): (a) The business transacted in India by LIC during 1988-89 and from 1.4.89 to 28.2.90 is given below :—

I. INDIVIDUAL ASSURANCE

<i>Period</i>	<i>No. of policies (in lakhs)</i>	<i>Sum Assured (Rs. in crores)</i>
1988-89	59.79	17222.84
1.4.89 to 28.2.90	44.56	13022.60

II. INDIVIDUAL ANNUITIES

<i>Period</i>	<i>No. of Policies (in lakhs)</i>	<i>First Year Premium (Rs. in crores)</i>
1988-89	1.70	128.80
1.4.89 to 28.2.90	0.86	56.60

III. PENSION AND GROUP SCHEMES

<i>Period</i>	<i>No. of new Schemes</i>	<i>No. of Lives. (in lakhs)</i>	<i>Premium from new Schemes (Rs. in crores)</i>
1988-89	8081	22.25	77.10
1.4.89 to 28.2.90	6290	18.71	35.19

(b) The expenditure incurred by the LIC is as under :—
during 1988-89 and from 1.4.89 to 30.9.89

<i>Particulars</i>	<i>Period</i>	
	<i>1988-89 Amount (Rs. in Crores)</i>	<i>1.4.89 to 30.9.89 Amount</i>
i) Salaries including bonus to employees	381.40	256.25
ii) Rent paid including imputed rent	16.63	6.23
iii) Commission etc. to agents	327.41	178.82
iv) Other Management Expenses	150.53	64.99
Total Management Expenses.	875.97	506.29

(c) The investments made by LIC excluding those in house property and land owned by it, as at 31st March, 1983 and 31st

March, 1989 together with annual income therefrom are as under:—

<i>As at</i>	<i>Investment</i> <i>(Rs. in crores)</i>	<i>Income</i>
31.3.88	15818.03	1510.99
31.3.89	18538.89	1822.96

[Translation]

Telecast of Tribal Culture

3780. SHRI NANDLAL MEENA: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the programmes on tribal culture telecast during last two years and the names of producers thereof; and

(b) whether Government are formulating any scheme for the preservation and documentation of tribal culture?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING AND PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI P. UPENDRA): (a) Details of the programmes produced by various Doordarshan Kendras during the last two years on tribal culture are given in the attached Statement. This is in addition to the programmes covering folk songs and tribal music telecast by Doordarshan at regular intervals.

(b) It has always been the endeavour of Doordarshan to preserve, to the extent possible within the existing constraints, important programmes of archival value including those on tribal culture.

STATEMENT

S. No.	Name of Kendra	Title of the Prog. and Format.	Name of the Producer	No.of Progs.
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Bombay	Samajik Surakshitata Vanavabi Seva Prkalpa	A.T. Dumbre	9
		Upekshitanche Antarang Adivasi Kalayankari Yojana	Bahu Panchbhai	6
		In Dnydeep-Andharachi Khant Khashala	A.B. Deshpande	1
		Benjara		2
		Je Ka Ranjale Ganjale	A.T. Dumbre	1
				19
2.	Madras	Animal Husbandary for Tribals	Francis Xavier	1
		Javvaadhu Hills Co-op, Societies	-do-	1
		Tribal Upliftment in Nilgiris Distt.	K.G. Ramanujam	1
		Westeland Cultivation in Naduhalli village.	-do-	1
		The sign of Success Tribal Development	C. Rajamani	1

S No	Name of Kendra	Title of the Prog and Format	Name of the Producer	No of Progs
1	2	3	4	5
		Dairy Development among Tribals	Francis Xavier	1
		Tribal Development in Periyar Distt	Francis Xavier	1
		Kodikanal Tribal women Development	-do	1
		Agril Dev among tribals in North Arcot	do-	1
				9
3	Nagpur	DBU Vikasashi Paoole Kashtati Hath	Surendra Hulaswar & K Wankhede	7
		Amam Adivasi	U Waratkar	1
				8
4	Cuttack	— — — Nil — — — — — — — — — — — — — — —		
5	Trivandrum	Documentary on Adivasi Wynad	D Rajan	1
		A report on South Zone Adivasi Festival	Dev Kumar	1
		Documentary on Koraga Tribes of Kasaragod District	Vijaya Prakash	1

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<i>S. No.</i>	<i>Name of Kendra</i>	<i>Title of the Prog. and Format.</i>	<i>Name of the Producer</i>	<i>No.of Progs.</i>
<i>1</i>	<i>2</i>	<i>3</i>	<i>4</i>	<i>5</i>
		Report on Folk Festival held at Srikakulam		1
		Hasya Janapadalu		1
		A Tribal village		1
		Oggukatha		1
		Kolatam		1
				<hr/> 47 <hr/>
11	Delhi	TV Documentary on the Development of backward area public sector		1
		Sign of success Documentary on Tribal Development at Kollu Hills	A Shivpuri	1
		Sarhul — A Festival of Chotta Nagpur	- do -	1
		Raout Naach Mahotsava at Bilaspur	- do -	1
		Nehru & Tribal Welfare	- do -	1
		The Lamas of Ladakh	- do -	1
		Garos of Meghalaya	- do -	1

<i>S. No.</i>	<i>Name of Kendra</i>	<i>Title of the Prog. and Format.</i>	<i>Name of the Producer</i>	<i>No.of Progs.</i>	185
1	2	3	4	5	Written Answers
		Utthan (The Dawn)	A. Shivpuri	1	CHAITRA 16, 1912 (SAKA)
		Tribe of Arunachal Pradesh	- do -	1	
		The Land of Land Dunes, Bhilwara,	- do -	1	
		Himachal Ki Janjatiyan	- do -	1	
		Baige	- do -	1	
		Bodo Bihu Dance	R. Dixit	1	
		Lesser known tribes of India		31	
		Adivasi Lok Kala Mahotsav	A. Shivpuri	1	
		Tribes of North-East Cares	--	5	
		A documentary - Uttari Purin Karvis Kiradivasi	--	1	
		Treaches of India West	S. Narayan	1	Written Answers
		Folk & Tribal Musical Instrument	Birendra Das	3	
		Agareya	--	1	186

<i>S. No.</i>	<i>Name of Kendra</i>	<i>Title of the Prog. and Format.</i>	<i>Name of the Producer</i>	<i>No.of Progs.</i>
<i>1</i>	<i>2</i>	<i>3</i>	<i>4</i>	<i>5</i>
		Hotribes	--	1
		Gaddi	--	1
		Welfare of SC/ST	S.M. Pandhi	1
		S.T. Welfare Prog.	- do _	11
		Vikas Ki Ora for SC/ST Welfare	- do -	1
		Environment and Co-operation (N. Rahen) by Tribals in Maintai- ning same	- do - R. N. Singh	1
		Forestry (Role of Tribals) (N. Rahen)	- do -	1
				63

**Raising the capacity of Doordarshan,
Relay Centre in Buldhana District,
Maharashtra**

3781. SHRI SUKHDEV NANDAJI KALE: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to raise the capacity of Doordarshan relay centre in Buldhana district of Maharashtra in order to cover the entire area;

(b) if so, when; and

(c) whether Government propose to set up another relay centre in that area and if so, the time by which it is likely to be set up?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING AND MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI P. UPENDRA): (a) to (c). Whereas a low power (100 W) TV transmitter is already functioning at Buldhana providing TV service within a range of 25 K.M. inclusive of fringe areas where fair reception can be obtained by the use of multi-element antennae and/or tall boosters, the TV service in the district is expected to improve on the commissioning of high power (10KW) TV transmitter under implementation at Aurangabad during 1990-91. Further improvement of TV Service in the remaining uncovered parts of the district, as in other uncovered parts of the country, can be done in a phased manner depending upon the availability of resources for the purpose in the future plans of TV expansion.

[English]

Import of Rubber

3782. SHRI RAMESH CHENNITHALA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the State Government of Kerala has submitted any memorandum against the import of Rubber; and

(b) if so, the action taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND TOURISM (SHRI ARUN KUMAR NEHRU): (a) and (b). The Kerala Government had requested for stoppage of import of rubber. This cannot be done as the domestic production of rubber is not sufficient to meet the demand. Government's policy is to import rubber only to the extent necessary to bridge the gap between demand and supply. If adequate rubber is not made available to the rubber manufacturing industry, it will adversely affect the growth of this sector which will, in turn, affect the rubber plantation industry in the long run. However, the interest of the rubber growers is adequately safeguarded.

[Translation]

Import of Gambier Extract

3783. SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether despite sufficient production of catechu in India, Gambier extract is being imported;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the Gambier extract is being sold in the market direct in the form of catechu thereby affecting the catechu industry; and

(d) whether Government propose to discontinue Gambier extract?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND TOURISM (SHRI ARUN KUMAR NEHRU): (a) and (b). "Gambier Extract" appears in

the list of limited permissible items and its import is allowed only against supplementary licences and REP licences under flexibility provisions.

(c) Yes.

(d) The representation will be examined in consultation with technical authorities and corrective measures, if any, will be taken as justified.

[English]

Colour Photo Films

3784. SHRI RAM SAGAR (Saidpur): Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is huge smuggling of Colour photo films from outside the country;

(b) if so, the measures taken to check the smuggling in photo films;

(c) the number of cases of smuggling of photo films detected during the last twelve months; and

(d) the action taken against the smugglers of photo films?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE): (a) and (b). Available reports indicate that colour photo films continue to be sensitive to smuggling into the country from outside. The anti-smuggling agencies remain vigilant against such smuggling. Close co-ordination is being maintained with all the agencies concerned in the detection and prevention of such smuggling.

(c) The information is being collected and will be laid on the table of the House.

(d) Persons found involved in smuggling are liable for penalty in departmental

adjudications and also prosecution in Courts of Law in suitable cases. They are also liable for detention under the Conservation of Foreign Exchange and Prevention of Smuggling Activities Act, 1974, if considered necessary.

[Translation]

Production of Mica in Bihar

3785. SHRI JANARDAN TIWARI: Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state:

(a) the extent of decline in production from mica mines in Bihar during the last three years;

(b) the reasons therefor; and

(c) the remedial steps taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF ENERGY AND MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI ARIF MOHAMMED KHAN): (a) The details of mica production in Bihar during the last three years is given below:—

1987	5308 tonnes
1988	3513 tonnes (Provisional)
1989	3366 tonnes (Provisional)

(b) The main reasons for decline in production of mica in Bihar are depletion of surface reserves in the working mines and overall slump in its demand due to development of synthetic substitutes.

(c) Geological investigations and test drilling have been carried out with the main objective of finding out norms of mica exploration in unknown prospects/areas so as to augment the mica resources. The Indian Bureau of Mines have also carried out a survey of the closed and working mines to

assess the prospect of increasing the production of working mines and reopening of closed mines.

[English]

Doordarshan programme for Malegaon, Chandore, Kalvan and Baglan

3786. DR. DAULATRAO SONUJI AHER: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that people from Malegaon, Chandore, Kalvan and Baglan tehsils from Nasik district (Maharashtra) are unable to enjoy T.V. programmes; and

(b) if so, the steps Government proposed to be taken in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING AND MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI P. UPENDRA): (a) and (b). Whether as three low power (100 W) TV transmitters, one each at Malegaon, Manmad and Nasik are at present functioning in Nasik district of Maharashtra, Baglan, Chandore and Kalvan Tehsils fall outside the service range of these transmitters. It has also been observed for sometime past that the reception of TV signals from the Malegaon transmitter is adversely affected by a distant transmitter because of abnormal propagation conditions. As a corrective measure, replacement of the Malegaon transmitter by a transmitter operating on a different channel is envisaged.

Further improvement/extension of TV service in the area, as also other uncovered parts of the country, depends on the availability of adequate resources for this purpose under the future plans for TV expansion.

Round Table Meeting of Foreign Investors

3787. SHRI KAMAL NATH: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the recent concluded round table meeting of foreign investors on technology transfer in India jointly organised by U.N. Centre on Transnational Corporations, India Investment Centre and others in New Delhi has called for a clear directive from the Government on the priority sectors for development and simplification of procedures to enable India to get its proper share of world investment; and

(b) if so, the reaction of Government with regard thereto?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE): (a) These points were made by many of the participants.

(b) Imparting greater transparency to policies and simplification and rationalisation of procedures is a part of the Government's policy.

[Translation]

Development of Tourism in Bihar

3788. SHRI DASAI CHOWDHARY: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) the steps contemplated by Government for the development of tourism in Bihar; and

(b) the amount provided by Government for the development of tourist places in Bihar between 1987 and 1989 and the details of places developed during the last three years, year-wise?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND TOURISM (SHRI ARUN KUMAR NEHRU): (a) and (b). The Central Department of Tourism have sanctioned a sum of Rs. 53.49 lakhs during 1987-88 for development of tourism projects in Bihar. The amounts released during the last three years for ongoing and new projects at Jahanabad, Nalanda, Gopalganj, Betia and Rajgir are as given below:

(Rs. in lakhs)

Year	Amount Released
1987-88	12.00
1988-89	6.00
1989-90	2.00

The Central Department of Tourism is also developing places of Buddhist interest in the State of Bihar with assistance from the Government of Japan.

Bhilai Steel Plant's Office at Nagpur

3789. DR. KHUSHAL PARSHRAM BOPCHE: Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to close or shift the office of Bhilai Steel Plant at Nagpur;

(b) whether Government have received some representations in this regard; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF ENERGY AND MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI ARIF MOHAMMAD KHAN): (a) Yes, Sir. The Management of the Bhilai Steel Plant is winding up their office at Nagpur.

(b) and (c). Yes, Sir. Representations from Convenor, Nagpur Bachao Samiti and

Secretary, Sports Club, South Nagpur have been received along with a letter from a honorable Member of Parliament. The question regarding appropriate placement of staff hitherto working at BSP's office at Nagpur is being considered by SAIL.

Use of Hindi in Banks

3790. SHRI RADHA MOHAN SINGH: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of bank branches of nationalised banks including the Reserve Bank of India in 'A', 'B' and 'C' regions separately, and the number of those branches where 100, 75, 50 and 25 per cent work, respectively is being done in Hindi, region-wise;

(b) whether work in Hindi has been reduced in bank branches of 'A' and 'B' regions due to installation of modern equipment viz. computers, Telex, Teleprinter etc. in Roman script there, if so, the measures being adopted to set it right;

(c) the names of banks in whose branches less than 25 per cent work is still being done in Hindi; and

(d) whether work in Hindi is likely to reduce further in those offices where sophisticated ledger maintenance equipment has been installed or is proposed to be installed?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE): (a) to (d). The information is being collected and will be laid on the table of the House to the extent available.

Commission to agents on sale of National Saving Certificates

3791. PROF. MAHADEO SHIWANKAR: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have reduced the rates of Commission of agents of NSCs and N.S.s.;

(b) whether small savings have not been adversely affected thereby;

(c) whether State Governments have requested Union Government to restore the old rate of Commission and whether these requests are under consideration;

(d) if so, the details in this regard and where the matter rests at present; and

(e) the time taken in payment of commission to agents?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE): (a) to (e). The rate of commission on collections mobilised through agents under National Savings Scheme has been reduced from 2% to 1% from August, 1989 and that for NSCs VIII Issue fixed at 1% of collections. The Government of Maharashtra and West Bengal requested for raising of the rates of commission on National Saving Scheme and National Savings Certificates VIII Issue to 2%. This suggestion was considered but was not agreed to. The collections under the schemes cited show a progressive increase. Instructions exist for expeditious settlement of commission claims of the agents.

[English]

Concessions to Cardamom Growers

3792. SHRI R. MUTHIAH: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state whether Government propose to give any concessions to the cardamom growers to compensate for the heavy losses incurred due to its becoming uncompetitive in the international market?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND

TOURISM (SHRI ARUN KUMAR NEHRU): Cardamom growers are getting a good price for their produce in the domestic market and are, therefore, not interested in exporting cardamom. In the circumstances, there is no case for any concession or compensation.

Import of Jumbo Rolls of Photosensitised goods

3793. SHRI E.S.M. PAKEER MOHAMED: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether finished goods which are indigenously available are also being allowed to be imported by certain category of persons like Registered Exporters, Trading Housing etc;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether huge quantities of jumbo rolls of photosensitised goods are being allowed to be imported without inspection;

(d) if so, the agency/undertaking through which these jumbo rolls has been imported; and

(e) the reasons for allowing the import, without inspection?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND TOURISM (SHRI ARUN KUMAR NEHRU): (a) and (b). Under the Import Policy for registered exporters, import of items contained in the Limited Permissible List and non-sensitive canalised list are allowed to be imported against replenishment licences earned by exporters, on post-export basis. On pre-export basis, import is permitted under Duty Exemption Scheme in respect of essential inputs except those included in the banned list, as are required for export production, without going into their indigenous availability, so as to make the exports competitive in the international market.

(c) to (e). Jumbo rolls of photosensitive goods on import are subjected to inspection at all ports by the custom authorities before clearance. Inspection is done to check the marks found on the goods to verify the description, length, width etc. with reference to the documents produced for clearance. The packages are not opened in entirety for examination as these goods are photosensitive and cannot be exposed to light thereby rendering them worthless.

Organisation of Indian Festivals abroad to promote Tourism

3794. SHRI KANCHI PANNEER SELVAM: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether for promotion of Indian festivals overseas certain Indian fair and festivals have been identified to attract foreign tourists;

(b) if so, the details thereof?

(c) whether Tamil Nadu Government has written to the Department of Tourism to assist in popularising 'Pongal' 'Thai Poo-sam', 'Shastri' festivals of Tamil Nadu which attract a large number of devotees and pilgrims in the state; and

(d) if so, the reaction of the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND TOURISM (SHRI ARUN KUMAR NEHRU)

(a) and (b). A calendar of festivals for promotion overseas has been drawn up in consultation with State Governments. The list is given in the attached Statement.

(c) and (d). State Government of Tamil Nadu recommended promotion of Pongal. This has been accepted for promotion by the Government.

STATEMENT*List of Important Festivals to be Promoted During Tourism Year 1991*

<i>Name of Festival</i>		<i>Date & Month</i>	<i>Places</i>	<i>State</i>
1		2	3	4
1.	Desert Festival	28 dec-3 Jan	Jaisalmer	Rajasthan
2.	Magi Fair	13-14 Jan	Muksar (Ludhiana)	Punjab
3.	Kite Festival	13-15 Jan	Ahmedabad	Gujarat
4.	Pongal Festival	13-17 Jan		Tamil Nadu
5.	Elephant Marathon	16-20 Jan	Trivandrum	Kerala
6.	Nagaur Festival	2-5 Feb	Nagaur	Rajasthan
7.	Republic Day	26 Jan	Delhi	Delhi
8.	Crafts Mela	1-15 Feb	Suraj Kund	Haryana
9.	Yoga Week	2-7 Feb	Rishikesh	Uttar Pradesh
10.	Goa Carnival	9-12 Feb		Goa

<i>Name of Festival</i>		<i>Date & Month</i>	<i>Places</i>	<i>State</i>
<i>1</i>		<i>2</i>	<i>3</i>	<i>4</i>
11.	Elephanta Festival	16-18 Feb	Elephanta	Maharashtra
12.	Heli-skiing	2nd and 3rd week of Feb	Manali	Himachal Pradesh
13.	Konark Festival	24-26 Feb	Konark	Orissa
14.	Chapcharkut	26 Feb	Mizoram	Mizoram
15.	Holi Festival	March		Punjab
16.	Basant Utsav	March	Shantiniketan	West Bengal
17.	Bohag Bihuor Rangoli Bihu	14-15 March	All over State	Assam
18.	Khajuroho Festival	12-18 March	Khajuraho	Madhya Pradesh
19.	Ellora Festival	23-25 March	Ellora	Maharashtra
20.	Chithiral Festival	March-April		
21.	International Flower Festival	April	Gantok	Sikkim
22.	Trichur Puram	April	Trichur	Kerala

<i>Name of Festival</i>		<i>Date & Month</i>	<i>Places</i>	<i>State</i>
1		2	3	4
23.	Hemis Festival	June	Ladakh	Kashmir
24.	Summer Festival	June	Mt. Abu	Rajasthan
25.	Himachal Summer Festival	10-16 June	Shimla	Himachal Pradesh
26.	Mango Festival	July	Saharanpur	Uttar Pradesh
27.	Chariot Festival	July (1st Week)	Puri	Orissa
28.	Alleppey Boat Race	August (2nd Week)	Alleppey	Kerala
29.	Ganesh Chaturthi	11-22 Sept	Bombay/Pune	Maharashtra
30.	Tarnetar Festival	24-26 Aug 1990	Surendra Nagar	Gujarat
		12-14 Sept'91		
		31 Aug-2 Sept'92		
31.	Onam	September	Trivandrum	Kerala
32.	Festival of Dances	Sept'90		Andhra Pradesh

<i>Name of Festival</i>		<i>Date & Month</i>	<i>Places</i>	<i>State</i>
1		2	3	4
33.	Golconda Festival	September	Hyderabad	Andhra Pradesh
34.	Heikru Hitongba	September		Manipur
35.	Navratri Festival	19 Sept '90	Baroda	Gujarat
		8 Oct '91		
		27 Oct '92		
36.	Dussehra	October	Kulu	Himachal Pradesh
37.	Durga Puja	October	Calcutta	West Bengal
38.	Pearl Festival	October		Andhra Pradesh
39.	Ka Pomblang Nongkrem	Oct-Nov		Meghalaya
40.	Diwali	November		All States
41.	International Trade Fair	November	Delhi	
42.	Pushkar	18-21 November	Pushkar	Rajasthan

<i>Name of Festival</i>		<i>Date & Month</i>	<i>Places</i>	<i>State</i>
<i>1</i>		<i>2</i>	<i>3</i>	<i>4</i>
43.	Sonepur Mela	November	Vaishali	Bihar
44.	International Sea Food Festival	December	Panaji & Cochin	Goa & Kerala
45.	Hampi Vijayanagar	Decmeber	Hampi	Karnataka
46.	Jormela	December	Chandigarh	Punjab

**Live Telecast of Rath Yatra Festival by
Doordarshan**

3795. SHRI A.N. SINGH DEO: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a demand for live telecast of Rath Yatra festival from Puri by Doordarshan;

(b) if so, whether Government propose to telecast the festival live; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING AND MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI P. UPENDRA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c). As per the existing policy, live TV coverages are limited to events of nation-wide topicality such as Republic Day Parade, Independence Day, International Conferences, important sports events, etc. For other important/socio-cultural events, TV reports are prepared for subsequent telecast on Doordarshan. The Car Festival is also similarly telecast in proper manner.

Income Tax Assessment of I.T.C. Ltd.

3796. SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Income tax assessment in respect of I.T.C. Ltd. for the year 1984-85 is pending because of lack of manpower in the Income Tax Department, Calcutta; and

(b) if so, the steps contemplated by Government to expedite completion of the Income Tax assessment of the company?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

**Allocation for Development of Tourists
in Kerala**

3797. SHRI MULLAPPALLY RAMACHANDRAN: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether Union Government have made any allocation for the development of tourism at Malampuzha in Palghat district, Kerala;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government have any proposals to develop Kapad Beach in Calicut district of Kerala into a tourist centre; and

(d) if so, the action being taken by Government in this regard and the central assistance likely to be given during the current year?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND TOURISM (SHRI ARUN KUMAR NEHRU):

(a) and (b). The Ministry of Tourism extends financial assistance to States/Union territories for strengthening of tourist infrastructure on specific proposals based on their merits, availability of funds and inter-se priorities. However, the Department of Tourism have sanctioned Rs. 7.82 lakhs for water sports equipment at Malampuzha in Palghat district.

(c) and (d). A project for the construction of Beach Resort at Kapad was sanctioned in 1988-89 at an estimated cost of Rs. 95.00 lakhs out of which Rs. 60.00 lakhs have already been released. Further funds would be released based on the progress of works till the project is completed.

Branches of Nationalised Banks in Kerala

3798. SHRI MULLAPPALLY RAMACHANDRAN: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of branches of nationalised banks in Kerala as on December 31, 1989;

(b) the number of branches out of the above which are in rural areas;

(c) whether Government propose to open more bank branches in Kerala during the current year;

(d) if so, the proposed locations thereof;

(e) the population per branch in Kerala at present;

(f) whether representations for opening new branches in Malabar area of Kerala are pending before his Ministry; and

(g) the decision of Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE): (a) and (b). As on 31.12.1989, 1554 branches of Public Sector Banks were functioning in Kerala of which 238 were in rural areas.

(c) and (d). The previous Branch Licensing Policy came to an end on 31.3.1990. The new Branch Licensing Policy is being finalised by the Reserve Bank of India.

(e) The average population per bank office for Kerala is 9,000.

(f) and (g). As per the information available with Reserve Bank of India no representation is pending for opening of new bank branches in Malabar area of Kerala.

Commission to agents under Mahila Pradhan Kshetriya Bachat Yojna

3799. PROF. SAVITHRI LAKSHMANAN: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of agents under Mahila Pradhan Kshetriya Bachat Yojna working in Kerala;

(b) the total number of depositors and their average monthly collections;

(c) whether the commission for the agents have been paid upto date; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor; and the steps taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE): (a) There are 4915 agents working under Mahila Pradhan Kshetriya Bachat Yojana in Kerala.

(b) 6,74,000 Post Office Recurring Deposit accounts are serviced by the agents. The average monthly collection is Rs. 2.74 crores.

(c) and (d). The commission claims upto February, 1990 have been passed by Regional Direction, National Savings, Kerala. There has been increase in the number of claims from the agents. Regional Director, National Savings, Kerala has been advised to expedite settlement of claims.

Moratorium on Private Banks

3800. SHRI K. PRADHANI: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are considering a proposal to impose a moratorium on a number of private banks with the ultimate objective of merging or amalgamating them with public sector banks;

(b) if so, the names of such banks; and

(c) the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c). Do not arise.

Waiver of interest by Indian overseas Bank

3801. SHRI M.V. CHANDRASHEKARA MURTHY: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Indian overseas bank, Madras has received representations from some of its constituents for waiving of interest on their dormant accounts;

(b) whether these representations have been pending with the bank for more than a year;

(c) whether some of these accounts had become dormant due to failure of certain public sector undertakings where their moneys blocked up; and

(d) the action proposed to be taken to help these account holders?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE): (a) to (d). Indian Overseas Bank have reported that they do receive representations from some of their constituents, from time to time, for waiving of interest on their borrowal accounts. These representations are considered on merits and appropriate decisions taken. The general Policy is to consider favourably the grant of reliefs where the reported sickness is due to reasons beyond the control of the borrower and the defaults are not wilful.

Hindustan Zinc Ltd., Udaipur

3802. SHRI KAILASH MEGHWAL: Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether some employees of Hindustan Zinc Limited, Udaipur have visited foreign countries at the expense of the company during the last three years; and

(b) if so, the purpose of such visits and the expenses involved in each case?

THE MINISTER OF ENERGY AND MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI ARIF MOHAMMAD KHAN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) A statement is laid on the Table of the House. [Placed in Library. See No. LT—724/90]

Appointment of Directors on Private Industrial Units by Financial Institutions

3803. SHRI KAILASH MEGHWAL: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of major private industrial units in which the public financial institutions have a majority share-holding, singly or collectively;

(b) whether these financial institutions have appointed Directors in these units to oversee their activities;

(c) if so, whether these Directors submit their report regularly; and

(d) whether Government propose to bring these units under the purview of the Comptroller and Auditor General of India?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE): (a) to (d). The information is being collected and will be laid on

the Table of the House.

Joint Ventures Abroad

3804. SHRI SANAT KUMAR MANDAL:
Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of individuals, public/private Ltd. companies who have set up joint ventures abroad;

(b) their particular sphere of trading activity and equity held by them in the joint ventures; and

(c) the amount of profit repatriated by them and the steps taken to ensure that they do not misuse part of the money earned by them abroad?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND TOURISM (SHRI ARUN KUMAR NEHRU):
(a) and (b). A statement on joint ventures abroad in operation is laid on the Table of the House [Placed in Library. See No. LT 725/90]

(c) As on 31.12.89, the profits repatriated to India in the form of dividends by Joint Ventures in operation is Rs. 23.14 crores. In the approval letters necessary stipulations are incorporated to enjoin upon the Indian promoters to repatriate profits of the joint ventures to India.

Tax Evasion by Builders of Multi-Storeyed Buildings

3805. SHRI SANAT KUMAR MANDAL:
Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether any survey of the source of money spent not only by builders of huge multi-storeyed buildings in Commercial complexes in the capital but also by the lessees renting the space therein for com-

mercial use has been made at any stage;

(b) if so, how much tax evasion has been found out both by the builders and their tenants; and

(c) if not, whether Government propose to conduct such a survey and mop up the black money?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE): (a) to (c). Enquiries about the sources of investment by the builders in construction of buildings as also verification of investment by the lessees of commercial spaces are undertaken by the Income-tax authorities during the course of survey or search operations or during the course of assessment proceedings in cases selected for scrutiny. Also, for discouraging investment of unaccounted funds in immovable property transactions, the Central Government is empowered with the preemptive right to purchase immovable property in certain notified cities, including Delhi, where the apparent consideration involved in the transfer agreement exceeds Rs. 10 lakhs.

It is reported that in the searches conducted in the cases of builders in Delhi during the financial years 1988-89 and 1989-90, prima-facie unaccounted assets of Rs. 65 lakhs were seized.

Telecast of Peter Brooks' 'Mahabharat'

3806. SHRI SANAT KUMAR MANDAL:
Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) the time by which the telecast of the epic 'Mahabharat' is likely to be concluded;

(b) whether Government are also contemplating to telecast Peter Brooks' 'Mahabharat'; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING AND MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI P. UPENDRA): (a) Telecast of the serial 'Mahabharat' is likely to be concluded on 24.6.1990.

(b) and (c). Doordarshan has collaborated in the production of Peter Brooks' 'Mahabharat' and it holds unlimited telecast rights for 10 years.

Mega Issue Experiment

3807. SHRISANAT KUMAR MANDAL: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Security & Exchange Board of India (SEBI) has expressed reservations over the financial institutions' approval of mega issue from the investors' angle and has suggested a change in the Financial Institution perspective;

(b) if so, Government's reaction thereto;

(c) whether Government have, on its own made any assessment of the mega issue experiment; and

(d) if so, the outcome thereof and the estimated amount collected during 1989-90.

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE): (a) In the journal 'SEBI' Market Review' of March, 1990 the subject of mega issues has been covered. It has been mentioned, *Inter alia*, that the investors will have a greater confidence if the financial institutions were to appraise the projects from the investors' viewpoint.

(b) No formal view has been taken.

(c) and (d). As per the reports available,

all mega issues except one mobilised the sanctioned amounts.

Exploration by National Mineral Development Corporation

3808. SHRI N. DENNIS: Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the National Mineral Development Corporation has undertaken exploration work in Union Territories; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF ENERGY AND MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI ARIF MOHAMMAD KHAN): (a) and (b). Yes, Sir. In 1986, National Mineral Development Corporation Limited carried out geological investigations for dolomite in the Rupa area of Arunachal Pradesh, which was then a Union Territory. As a result of these investigations, reserves of around 32 million tonnes of refractory grade dolomite were proved.

Percentage of Population Covered by T.V. and AIR

3809. SHRI M.M. PALLAM RAJU: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) the percentage of population already covered and to be covered by the Doordarshan and the Radio by 1990; and

(b) the list of major TV transmission centres set up in the country?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING AND MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI P. UPENDRA): (a) The details of population covered by Doordarshan and AIR at present and that expected by the end of 1990-91 are given below:

(Population coverage in %)

	<i>Doordarshan</i>	<i>AIR</i>
i) Existing coverage	76.0	95.0
ii) Coverage expected by the end of 1990-91.	82.0	96.7

(b) A list of high power TV transmitters given in the enclosed statement.
functioning in the country at present is

STATEMENT*High Power TV Transmitters in The Country*

<i>State/Union Territory</i>	<i>High Power Transmitters (10 KW/1KW)</i>
<i>1</i>	<i>2</i>
Assam	Dibrugarh (10 KW) Guwahati* (10 KW) Silchar (10 KW)
Andhra Pradesh	Hyderabad* (10 KW) Vijayawada (10 KW) Visakhapatnam (10 KW)
Arunachal Pradesh	Itanagar (1 KW)
Bihar	Muzaffarpur (1 KW) Patna (10 KW) Ranchi* (10 KW)
Goa	Panaji (10 KW)
Gujarat	Ahmadabad* (10 KW) Dwarka (10 KW) Rajkot* (10 KW) Pij (1 KW)
Himachal Pradesh	Kasauli (10 KW)
Jammu and Kashmir	Jammu (10 KW) Poonch (10 KW) Srinagar* (10 KW)

1	2
Kerala	Cochin (10 KW) Trivandrum* (10KW)
Karnataka	Bangalore* (10 KW) Gulbarga (1 KW)
Madhya Pradesh	Bhopal (10 KW) Indore (10 KW)
Raipur (10 KW)	
Meghalaya	Shillong (1 KW) Tura (10 KW)
Maharashtra	Bombay* (Ch.I-10 KW) Bombay (Ch.II-10 KW) Nagpur* (10 KW) Pune (10 KW)
Manipur	Imphal (1 KW)
Mizoram	Aizawal (1 KW)
Nagaland	Kohima (1 KW)
Orissa	Cuttack* (10 KW) Sambalpur (1 KW)
Punjab	Amritsar (10 KW) Bhatinda (10 KW) Jalandhar* (1 KW)
Rajasthan	Jaipur* (10 KW)
Tamilnadu	Kodaikanal (10 KW) Madras* Ch. I-10 KW) Madras (Ch. II-10 KW)
Tripura	Agartala (10 KW)
Uttar Pradesh	Agra (10 KW) Allahabad (10 KW) Kanpur (10 KW) Lucknow* (10 KW) Mussoorie (10 KW) Varanasi (10 KW)

1	2
	Gorakhpur* (10 KW)
West Bengal	Asansol (10 KW) Calcutta* (Ch. I-10 KW) Calcutta (Ch. II-10 KW) Kurseong (10 KW) Murshidabad (10 KW)
Delhi	Delhi* (Ch. I-10 KW & 1 KW) Delhi (Ch. II-10 KW)

*Having Programme Production Facilities.

**Recommendation of Committee on
Constitution of Advocates Welfare
Fund**

3810. CH. JAGDEEP DHANKHAR: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) the recommendation of the Committee constituted under the Chairmanship of the Hon'ble Justice Bahrul Islam in regard to Constitution of the Advocates Welfare fund; and

(b) the action taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF ENERGY AND MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI ARIF MOHAMMAD KHAN): (a) The Committee recommended that Central Government shall constitute in each State an Advocates' Welfare Fund which will consist of grants made by the Central Government, State Government, donations, contributions etc. and sums received from the sale of Central Welfare Fund stamps, and that the Central Government shall constitute a Trustee Committee in which Welfare Fund will be vested. The Reports of the Committee was laid on the Table of Lok Sabha on 12 August, 1986.

(b) The matter is under consideration of the Government.

**Role of Regional Rural Banks Under
Designated Service Area Approach**

3811. SHRI BHAGEY GOBARDHAN: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the role of regional rural banks under the Designated Service Area Approach by the Reserve Bank of India; and

(b) the number of branches proposed to be opened by the regional rural banks in Orissa under this scheme?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE): (a) and (b). Under the Service Area Approach to rural lending which came into operation from 1.4.89, every village has been allocated to one bank branch, including Regional Rural Banks (RRBs). Under this approach it is envisaged that every bank branch will cover 15 to 25 villages. Under the Service Area Approach, the RRB branch prepares credit plans only for target groups in its Service Area. The non-target groups beneficiaries of those Villages would be served by a designated

commercial bank branch. Since the RRBs cannot meet the banking requirements of all types of borrowers in their service area, the approach in making allotments to RRBs was changed by RBI taking into account their financial position, capacity to absorb losses in opening new branches and general efficiency. The fresh allotments of identified centres under Service Area Approach were, therefore, made to commercial banks having representation in that district/area. Accordingly, no centre was allotted to any RRB in Orissa under Service Area Approach.

Hindi Announcers in Various Air Stations

3812. SHRI BHAGEY GOBARDHAN:
Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) the up-to-date number of All India Radio Broadcasting Stations;

(b) the number of regular SC/ST Hindi Announcers Grade-IV working at the various All India Radio stations, Scheduled Caste/Scheduled Tribe-wise, general vacancy-wise and All India Radio Station-wise;

(c) whether there is still a backlog of reserved vacancies for SC and ST of Hindi Announcers Grade-IV;

(d) if so, the reasons there for, and

(e) the steps being taken by Government to complete the pending backlog of reserved vacancies for Hindi Announcers Grade-IV posted at various All India Radio stations?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING AND MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI P. UPENDRA): (a) There are 100 Akashvani Kendras at present.

(b) The number of regular Scheduled Caste/Scheduled Tribe Hindi Announcer Grade IV is 30 (Scheduled Caste-20 and Scheduled Tribe-10) as per details in statement-I. The list of vacancies of Announcer Grade IV at All India Radio Stations Scheduled Caste-wise, Scheduled Tribe-wise and General category-wise is at statement-II.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) and (e). Does not arise.

STATEMENT-I*List of SC/ST Hindi Announcer Grade-IV at AIR Stations*

S.No.	Name of the Station	Scheduled Castes	Scheduled Tribe
1	2	3	4
1.	AIR, Agra	1	—
2.	AIR, Ambikapur	—	1
3.	AIR, Alwar	1	—
4.	AIR, Bhatinda	1	—
5.	AIR, Bhagalpur	—	1
6.	AIR, Chindwara	—	1
7.	CBS. New Delhi	1	—
8.	AIR, Jaipur	1	—
9.	AIR, Jamshedpur	1	1
10.	AIR, Jagdalpur	2	1

<i>S.No.</i>	<i>Name of the Station</i>	<i>Scheduled Castes</i>	<i>Scheduled Tribe</i>
<i>1</i>	<i>2</i>	<i>3</i>	<i>4</i>
11.	AIR, Jodhpur	1	1
12.	AIR, Kota	—	1
13.	AIR, Mathura	1	—
14.	AIR, Rajkot	1	—
15.	AIR, Ranchi	1	1
16.	AIR, Rohtak	2	—
17.	AIR, Shillong	—	1
18.	AIR, Suratgarh	1	1
19.	AIR, Varanasi	1	—
20.	National Channel, Jawaharlal Nehru Stadium, New Delhi.	1	—
21.	AIR, Chattarpur	1	—

S.No.	Name of the Station	Scheduled Castes	Scheduled Tribe
1	2	3	4
22.	AIR, Shimla	1	—
23.	AIR, Calcutta	1	—
		20	10

STATEMENT-II*List of Vacancies of Hindi Announcer Grade IV at All India Radio Stations*

<i>Sl.No.</i>	<i>Name of the Station</i>	<i>Scheduled Caste</i>	<i>Scheduled Tribe</i>	<i>General</i>
<i>1</i>	<i>2</i>	<i>3</i>	<i>4</i>	<i>5</i>
1.	AIR, Agra	—	—	3
2.	AIR, Ambikapur	—	—	1
3.	AIR, Bhagalpur	—	—	2
4.	AIR, Bombay	—	—	1
5.	AIR, Banswara	—	—	2
6.	AIR, Chindwara	—	—	3
7.	AIR, Gwalior	—	—	1
8.	AIR, Jagdalpur	—	—	1
9.	AIR, Kandaṡa	—	—	3
10.	AIR, Madras	—	—	2

<i>Sl.No.</i>	<i>Name of the Station</i>	<i>Scheduled Caste</i>	<i>Scheduled Tribe</i>	<i>General</i>
<i>1</i>	<i>2</i>	<i>3</i>	<i>4</i>	<i>5</i>
11.	AIR, Mathura	—	—	2
12.	AIR, Port Blair	—	—	1
13.	AIR. Rampur	—	—	1
14.	AIR, Gorakhpur	—	—	1
Total		—	—	24

Licence for Mining

3813. SHRI BHAKTA CHARAN DAS:
Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be
pleased to state:

(a) the existing rules for giving licences
and mining leases for different minerals;

(b) whether Government propose to
amend the existing rules; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF ENERGY AND
MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI ARIF
MOHAMMAD KHAN): (a) Prospecting li-
cence and mining lease in respect of miner-
als other than minor minerals are granted
under the Mineral Concession Rules (MCR),
1960 framed under section 13 of the Mines
and Minerals (Regulation and Development)
(MMR&D) Act, 1957. In respect of minor
minerals, mining lease/quarry leases are
granted under the respective Minor Mineral
Concession Rules of the respective State
Governments framed under section 15 of
the Mines and Minerals (Regulation and
Development) Act, 1957.

(b) and (c). Some amendments are
under formulation in the light of the experi-
ence gained in operation of the present
statutory provisions.

Adulteration in Tea

3814. SHRI BHAKTA CHARAN DAS:
Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased
to state:

(a) whether the adulteration in tea is
going on in large scale in some parts of the
country particularly in Karnataka;

(b) whether the sale of adulterated tea
is posing danger to health; and

(c) if so, the steps taken to seize the
adulterated tea and also to take action against
the unscrupulous traders?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND
TOURISM (SHRI ARUN KUMAR NEHRU):

(a) There have recently been some reports
about adulteration of tea in Kerala,
Tamilnadu, and Karnataka.

(b) Sale of tea, if adulterated with any
substance which is injurious to health, will
certainly pose danger to health.

(c) A case of adulteration of a food item
like tea attracts the provisions of the preven-
tion of Food Adulteration Act. The primary
responsibility for taking action under the Act
is of the local health authorities. However, on
receipt of reports about adulteration of tea
referred to above, the Tea Board has di-
rected its Chief Regional Executive at
Coonoor to take necessary action in the
matter.

Setting up of Export Oriented Units

3815. SHRI BHAKTA CHARAN DAS:
Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased
to state:

(a) whether Government have a pro-
posal to set up some 100 percent Export
Oriented Units;

(b) if so, the number of 100 percent
Export Oriented Units proposed to be set up
in different States during the Eighth Five
Year Plan; and

(c) the number of Units already set up in
Orissa and other States in Seventh Plan?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND
TOURISM (SHRI ARUN KUMAR NEHRU):

(a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) No unit under the scheme of 100 per cent FOU has been set up by Government of Orissa during the Seventh Five Year Plan. During the same period, three units have been set up—one each in Bihar, West Bengal and Kerala.

Raising of Capital through Debentures

3816. SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the corporate companies in private sector which raised capital through debentures etc. during the last two years and upto February, 1990;

(b) the companies who have defaulted at the time of making payment to investors and the amount involved therein; and

(c) the steps Government have taken or propose to take to ensure security of the investments made by the investors/depositors?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE): (a) Details of companies, in private sector, permitted to raise equity shares, debentures etc. (including Bonus) are published fortnightly through press releases. This data is also available in published quarterly statistics on the working of capital issues control.

(b) Guidelines have been issued for protection of interest of debenture holders and the companies are required to create debenture redemption reserve out of their profits so that debentures are redeemed as per schedule. While considering further applications for debentures the companies must submit an auditor's certificate that the

company is not in default in the servicing of its debentures already issued.

(c) Various steps for the protection of interest of investors including small investors are taken from time to time. There is an ongoing process and would continue.

Import-Export Trade Agreement

3817. SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of foreign delegations that visited India in connection with import/export trade, the agreements signed with subject matter thereof and the amount involved, country-wise, during April 1989-February, 1990;

(b) the number of Indian delegations which visited abroad during the above mentioned period, country-wise, the subject matter of the agreements signed and amount involved; and

(c) how far these agreements have been fulfilled in monetary terms?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND TOURISM (SHRI ARUN KUMAR NEHRU): (a) to (c). 13 Foreign delegations visited India and 15 Indian delegations went abroad during April, 1989 to February, 1990 in connection with Import/Export Trade. A statement giving the details of the official level foreign delegations which visited India and Indian official level delegations which went abroad during April, 1989 to February, 1990 which resulted in signing of Trade Agreements is enclosed.

STATEMENT

(a) The details of the foreign official level delegations which visited India in connection with the signing of Trade Agreements during April, 1989 to February, 1990 are given below:—

<i>Name of the Country</i>	<i>Details of Agreements signed with subject matter</i>	<i>Amount involved</i>	<i>Fulfilment in monetary terms as on 31.3.90</i>
1	2	3	4
1. China	Protocol covering the period 20.9.89 to 19.9.90.	The Trade Protocol enumerates items of export interest to both the countries with value/quantities in some cases, but does not lay down targets for bilateral trade for the period.	No targets have been set as indicated in columns (3).
2. Czechoslovakia	Indo-Cezh Trade Protocol for 1990	Imports-3650 M. Rs Exports-3663 M. Rs.	It is too early to assess the performance in monetary terms. However, maximum efforts are made on both sides to achieve the targets set out in the Trade Plans.

<i>Name of the Country</i>		<i>Details of Agreements singned with subject matter</i>	<i>Amount involved</i>	<i>Fulfilment in monetary terms as on 31.3.90</i>
1		2	3	4
3.	German Democratic	Indo-GDR Trade Protocol for 1990	Imports-3400 M. Rs. Exports—3300 M. Rs	—do—

(b) The details of the 1 official level delegations which visited India in connection with the signing of Trade Agreements during April, 1989 to February, 1990 are given below:—

<i>Name of the Country visited</i>	<i>Details of Agreements signed with subject matter</i>	<i>Amount involved</i>	<i>Fulfilment in monetary terms as on 31.3.90</i>
<i>1</i>	<i>2</i>	<i>3</i>	<i>4</i>
1. Poland	Indo-Polish Trade Plan for 1990	Imports-4346 M. Rs Exports-3610 M. Rs	It is too early to assess the performance in monetary terms. However, maximum efforts are made on both sides to achieve the targets set out in the Trade Plan.
2. U.S.S.R.	Signing of Indo-Soviet Trade Protocol for 1990 and discussion on long term Trade Plan for 1991-95	Imports-35000 M. Rs Export-53000 M. Rs	—do—
3. Romania	Indo-Romanian Trade Protocol for 1990	Imports-45000 M. Rs Export-45000 M. Rs	—do—

Raid on Premises of Copper Manufacturers

3818. SHRI M.V. CHANDRASHEKARA MURTHY:
SHRI V. SREENIVASA PRASAD:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Income-Tax authorities raided the premises of copper manufacturers in Bombay during the month of January 1990 and unearthed unaccounted income to the tune of crores of rupees;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the action taken by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE): (a) and (b). Searches were conducted on the 24th January, 1990 at the premises of certain producers of copper wire and allied products listed below and persons closely connected with them:

- (i) M/s. Jyoti Wire Industries.
- (ii) M/s. Bharat Insulation Company.
- (iii) M/s. Atlas Wires Ltd.
- (iv) M/s. National Wires & Metal Industries.
- (v) M/s. Shaswat Trading Co. Ltd.

These searches resulted in the seizure of prima-facie unaccounted assets amounting to Rs. 73.05 lakhs including cash, jewellery and other assets. The persons searched have, in their statements on oath, given during the course of these searches, admitted unaccounted income amounting in all to Rs. 2.19 crores.

(c) Follow-up investigation and such

other action as called for under the direct taxes enactments, is taken.

Welfare of Plantation workers

3819. SHRI BHAKTA CHARAN DAS:
Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have introduced any scheme for the welfare of the plantation workers;

(b) if so, whether separate schemes are being introduced for tea, coffee and cashewnut workers; and

(c) if not, the details of the schemes being implemented presently in that regard?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND TOURISM (SHRI ARUN KUMAR NEHRU):

(a) to (c). The condition of employment and welfare of plantation workers are governed by the provisions of the Plantation Labour Act, 1951 which is administered by the State Governments. Cashewnut is not a plantation crop and as such, workers are not covered under the Plantation Labour Act. However, the Tea Board and the Coffee Board have schemes for the welfare of tea and coffee estate workers and their dependents. These include schemes such as stipends for children of plantation workers for vocational and technical training, grant of donation for medical aid, grant for construction of schools/institutions, etc.

Loans to States by NABARD

3820. SHRI PRATAPRAO B. BHOSALE:
DR. VENKATESH KABDE:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that

the National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD) has stopped giving fresh loans to some States;

(b) if so, the names of such States;

(c) whether Government propose to take some action in the matter;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE): (a) to (e). With a view to enforce credit discipline, National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD) had issued instructions requiring the State Cooperative Banks (SCBs) and the State Land Development Banks (SLDBs) in all States not to contravene the instructions and those of Reserve Bank of India (RBI) relating to issue and repayment of loans and interest rates and also to abide by the instructions relating to reliefs to be provided to the borrowers. The States in which SCBs or SLDBs violated the instructions their refinance been stopped by NABARD. The same was resumed in those cases where State Governments agreed to abide

by the instructions laid down by NABARD/RBI as well as not to give effect to schemes of waiver of cooperative loans announced by them.

Cheap and timely credit to Farmers

3821. SHRI SHANKERSINH VAGHELA:
SHRI L.K. ADVANI:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to launch a scheme to make available cheap and timely credit to the farming community and save them from indebtedness; and

(b) if so, the salient features of the scheme?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE): (a) and (b). The advances to agriculture are covered under Priority Sector and the interest rates on agricultural advances are concessional as compared to the other categories. With effect from 1st March, 1988 rate of interest on agricultural loans are as under:

<i>Short term loans</i>	<i>Rate of interest (% per annum)</i>
1	2
(i) Upto Rs. 7,500/-	10.00
(ii) Over Rs. 7,500/- and upto Rs. 15,000/-	11.50
(iii) Over Rs. 15,000/- and upto Rs. 25,000/-	12.00 (w.e.f. 1.3.1989)
(iv) Over Rs. 25,000/-	14.00 to 15.50

1	2
<i>Term-Loans</i>	
(a) Irrigation and Land Development	10.00
(b) Other purposes	
(i) Small farmers	10.00
(ii) Other farmers	12.50

The banks have been advised to ensure disposal of loan applications upto Rs. 25,000/- within a fortnight and those over Rs. 25,000/- within 8 to 9 weeks. In addition to above, service area approach being implemented from April 1989 will also take care of the credit needs of the rural population including the farming community residing in remote areas in a better planned way.

Export of Agricultural and Marine Products to EEC countries

3822. SHRI K.S. RAO: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) the value of exports of agricultural and marine products to EEC countries during 1988 and 1989;

(b) the particulars of the products exported and the names of the countries to which the products were exported; and

(c) the reasons for increased demand for Indian agricultural and marine products to EEC countries in 1989?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND TOURISM (SHRI ARUN KUMAR NEHRU):

(a) According to Eurostat Office's latest trade statistics for EEC received from Indian Embassy in Brussels, India's exports of agricultural and marine products during January-June, 1989 were 317.397 Million

ECU while the figure for the corresponding period of 1988 was 205.938 Million ECU. For the whole of the year 1988, the figure was 463.4 Million ECU

(b) The major items exported to EEC were animal feed stuff mainly oil cakes, products of animal origin, fruits, vegetables and nuts, basmati rice, spices, frozen shrimps, squid, cuttle fish, lobsters, IQF shrimps and canned fish. Countries to which exports took place included mainly UK, Italy, France and the Netherlands.

(c) According to report from Indian Embassy in Brussels, the increase in 1989 may be attributed mainly to India's cooperativeness in EEC in oil cakes and marine products.

[Translation]

Demands of Employees of Punjab and Sind Bank

3823. SHRI RAMLAL RAHI: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that the Punjab and Sind Bank employees have held demonstrations at various places in support of their demands;

(b) if so, the details of their demands; and

(c) the action proposed to be taken by Government to alleviate their grievances?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE): (a) to (c). Punjab & Sind Bank has reported that the Punjab and Sind Bank Staff Organisation held demonstrations at the bank's regional/zonal/main offices and branches in support of some of their demands such as recognition of the union, framing of an industrial relations policy, absorption of empanelled employees, implementation of promotion policy of clerks and sub-staff, etc. The bank has also reported that the grievances of the union are misconceived/unfounded and as such it is not possible for the bank to accede to their demands. The concerned labour authority is seized of the dispute.

Import of Coal Scrap from U.S.S.R.

3824. SHRI PYARELAL KHANDELWAL: Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics has agreed to provide coking coal and scrap metals for steel plants in the country; and

(b) if so, the terms of this agreement and the time by which the supply of the said material is likely to be started?

THE MINISTER OF ENERGY AND MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI ARIF MOHAMMAD KHAN): (a) and (b). Union of Soviet Socialist Republic has been supplying scrap and coking coal to India for its steel plants. The terms and conditions of the import of these items for the year 1990 have not yet been finalised.

Iron Ore export to Japan

3825. SHRI PYARELAL KHANDELWAL: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) the annual iron ore export to Japan from Bailadila;

(b) whether Government propose to increase the price of iron ore being exported to Japan; and

(c) whether any discussions have been held with Japan in this regard; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND TOURISM (SHRI ARUN KUMAR NEHRU):

(a) Quantum of iron ore exports from Bailadila to Japan during the last three years have been as under:

<i>Year</i>	<i>Quantity in Lakh Tonnes</i>
1987-88	52.99
1988-89	66.46
1989-90 (Apr-Feb)	56.98

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) and (d). Discussions were held with the Japanese Steel Mills in January, 1990, and an increase of 15.96% over the price level of 1989-90 has been secured for 1990-91 for exports of both iron ore lumps and fines.

Export of Coconut

3826. SHRI PYARELAL KHANDELWAL: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) the exports of coconut during the last three years;

(b) whether coconut growers have demanded increase in its export on account of heavy fall in its prices this year; and

(c) if so, the steps taken and the policy of Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND TOURISM (SHRI ARUN KUMAR NEHRU):

(a) Export of coconut is not allowed.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) Market support price of Rs. 1600/- per quintal for coconut has been fixed by the Ministry of Agriculture so as to prevent further fall in prices of coconut.

[English]

Metallurgical and Engineering Consultants (India) Limited

3827. **PROF. SHAILENDRANATH SHRIVASTAVA:** Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state:

(a) the amount spend by the Metallurgical and Engineering Consultants (India) Limited, Ranchi on the welfare and recreational programmes for its employees in 1989-90;

(b) whether the company has earmarked some amount for the development and propagation of Hindi; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF ENERGY AND MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI ARIF MOHAMMAD KHAN): (a) Rs. 30 lakhs upto 31.12.1989.

(b) and (c). Rs. 2.80 lakhs were spent on organising Hindi workshops, Kavi Sammelans, debates, seminar, payment of honorarium to Instructors etc.

MMTC's Office in Patna

3828. **PROF. SHAILENDRANATH SHRIVASTAVA:** Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Minerals and Metals Trading Corporation of India (MMTC) proposes to open a Regional office in Patna;

(b) the number of joint venture projects undertaken by the Minerals and Metals Trading Corporation in Bihar; and

(c) the details of the investments by MMTC in that state?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND TOURISM (SHRI ARUN KUMAR NEHRU):

(a) No, Sir. However, Mica Trading Corporation of India Limited (MITCO), which is a subsidiary of MMTC, has its Head Office in Patna.

(b) MMTC has not undertaken any joint venture project in Bihar.

(c) MMTC's total investments in Bihar, made in its subsidiary company MITCO, stood at Rs. 17.93 crores as on 29.2.90 which includes Rs. 8.07 crores as equity and Rs. 9.86 crores as loans. MITCO has set up silvered mica and mica capacitor plant, micronised micronised mica powder plant and a mica paper plant with investment of Rs. 12 lakhs, Rs. 57 lakhs and Rs. 612 lakhs respectively. As insulating materials plant with estimated investment of Rs. 880 lakhs is under implementation. Besides these plants, MITCO has set up mica processing factories in the districts of Hazaribagh and Giridih in Bihar.

Financial Powers to States

3829. **SHRI ARVIND NETAM:** Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are contemplating to increase the financial powers to States; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE): (a) and (b). Some States had suggested to the Commission on Centre-State Relations that their fiscal powers may be enlarged by empowering them to levy taxes and duties included in Articles 268 and 269 of the Constitution; transfer of residuary powers of taxation to the States; and removing/relaxing the limitations on their powers to raise resources including transfer to them of powers of taxation in regard to certain commodities.

The recommendations of the Commission in this regard are under consideration of the Government.

Hundred percent Export oriented units scheme

3830. SHRIMATI BASAVA RAJESWARI: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Confederation of 100 percent Export Oriented Units has urged Government to take a fresh look at the 100 percent Export Oriented Units Scheme to make it more attractive and has suggested a number of modifications;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the Government's reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND TOURISM (SHRI ARUN KUMAR NEHRU): (a) and (b). Yes, Sir. The suggestions made by the Confederation of 100% Export Units for changes in the Scheme of 100% Export Oriented Units include: making the Ministry of Commerce an effective nodal point; grant of full cash compensatory support; create an Authority for 100% EOUs; supply of raw materials at international prices; revision of the method of value addition; simplifying the procedure for domestic sale; removal of certain procedural hurdles etc.

(c) Government duly examines such proposals with a view to making the Scheme more effective.

Refinancing of Loans by National Housing Bank

3831. SHRIMATI BASAVA RAJESWARI: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the National Housing Bank proposed to refinance loans upto rupees one lakh in the North Eastern region, if so, the details thereof;

(b) the housing loans refinanced by the National Housing Bank in Karnataka during 1989 and 1990 (upto 31 March);

(c) the housing loans refinanced by the Bank in other States during the above period, State-wise; and

(d) the housing loans proposed to be provided to poor and down-trodden people in Karnataka during 1990-91?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE): (a) to (d). The refinance scheme formulated by National Housing (NHB) is applicable to the entire country including the North Eastern Region. Under the refinance scheme, housing loans sanctioned by scheduled banks, housing finance companies and State level apex cooperative societies on or after January 1, 1990 are eligible for refinance to the extent of 100% of the direct housing loans upto Rs. 1 lakh for an individual for acquisition/construction of a new housing unit not exceeding 40 square metres. The ceiling on area is relaxable at the discretion of the primary lending agency wherever the cost of dwelling unit including cost of land is less than Rs. 1.5 lakhs. Refinance is also available to the extent of 100% for loans upto Rs. 30,000 for major repairs and upgradation. There is no

State-wise allocation of funds. NHB will refinance in full measure specified loans sanctioned by the primary lending agencies.

Inter-sectoral Transfer of Funds

3832. SHRIMATI BASAVA RAJESWARI: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are exploring the possibility of intersectoral transfer of funds to finance important projects;

(b) if so, whether any concrete formula or schemes have been prepared;

(c) whether Planning Commission's suggestion in this regard has also been considered; and

(d) if so, by what time, a final decision is likely to be taken?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) No proposal for exploring the possibility of inter-sectoral transfer of funds to

finance important projects is under consideration of the Planning Commission.

(d) does not arise.

Joint sector projects by SAIL

3833. SHRIMATI BASAVA RAJESWARI: Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Steel Authority of India Limited has decided to set up Joint Sector projects in various parts of the country;

(b) if so, the places where these projects will be set up;

(c) the estimated total out put on these projects; and

(d) by what time, the final decision will be taken?

THE MINISTER OF ENERGY AND MINISTEROFCIVILAVIATION (SHRIARIF MOHAMMAD KHAN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (d). The details in respect of location, estimated total output and the expected time by which decision will be taken in the projects are given below:

<i>Project</i>	<i>Proposed location</i>	<i>Total output</i>	<i>Expected time to take decision</i>
<i>1</i>	<i>2</i>	<i>3</i>	<i>4</i>
Slag Cement Project	Bokaro	1 Million tonnes per annum.	Detailed Project Report is under preparation. The Decision will be taken after assessing the viability of the project and the necessary approvals from the Government.
Caprolactum	Bokaro	50,000 tonnes per annum.	Draft Feasibility report prepared by Engineers India Ltd., is under examination by the co-promoters. Final decision will be taken after assessing the viability of the project and further necessary approvals from the Government.
Hot Briquetted Iron/Sponge Iron.	Mangalore	7,50,000 tonnes per annum.	The proposal for appointment of a consultant for the preparation of a Detailed Project Report and the formation of a Company is under consideration of the Government.

Irregularities etc. during Ninth Lok Sabha and Assemblies Elections

3834. SHRI SHANKERSINH VAGHELA:
SHRI L.K. ADVANI:

Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of complaints received by the Election Commission relating to invalid votes, omission of names from voters list, cases of impersonation in casting of votes, cases of non-availability of postal ballots to civil and defence personnel on duty and cases of mal-practices in counting during the last Lok Sabha election;

(b) the figures on the same count during the assembly elections in some States in February, 1990; and

(c) the action plan to eliminate the above deficiencies?

THE MINISTER OF ENERGY AND MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI ARIF MOHAMMAD KHAN): (a) and (b). The required information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House on its receipt.

(c) This will be determined on receipt of information together with the views of the Election Commission thereon.

Current Affairs Programmes

3835. SHRIMATI UMA GAJAPATHI RAJU: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether any current affairs programmes prepared by private producers between January to March 1990 have been withheld from being telecast;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the reasons for not telecasting them?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING AND MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI P. UPENDRA): (a) to (c). Yes, Sir. Three programmes, namely, 'Democracy and Money Power' by Media Workshop, 'Assam' by Shri Ramesh Sharma and 'Kashmir' by PTI-TV have not been telecast by Doordarshan. While the telecast of the programmes 'Democracy and Money Power' and 'Assam' would have infringed the guidelines issued by the Election Commission, the producer of 'Kashmir' had not adhered to the agreed scope of the programme.

Export Oriented Bauxite Mining Complex

3836. SHRIMATI UMA GAJAPATHI RAJU: Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the feasibility report on setting up an export oriented bauxite mining complex in Visakhapatnam district of Andhra Pradesh, has been completed and submitted;

(b) whether Andhra Pradesh State Government has confirmed availability of land and infrastructural facilities for the project; and

(c) the latest position regarding this project and whether his Ministry had discussions with the soviet Government to work out an optimal solution?

THE MINISTER OF ENERGY AND MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI ARIF MOHAMMAD KHAN): (a) and (c). A feasibility report to set up 2.3 million tonnes per annum of Bauxite Mine in Andhra Pradesh

exclusively for export to USSR was prepared jointly by the Indian and Soviet experts and was considered by the Working Group on Non-ferrous Metallurgy under the Indo-Soviet Joint Commission held in December, 1987 when they came to the conclusion that within the given parameters, the economic viability of the project could not be ensured. However, with a view to finding out an optimal solution, the project was further discussed by the Empowered Body of Soviet and Indian experts in April, 1989. The Soviet side has now informed that Bauxite Mine of 2.3 million tonnes per annum capacity would not fulfil the criteria of viability of capital investment.

(b) Government of Andhra Pradesh have confirmed the availability of about 2438 acres of land for the Project, besides providing other needed infrastructural facilities like water and power and also to exempt payment of Mineral Rights Tax and Cesses.

Import of Colour Photographic Jumbo Rolls

3837. SHRI E.S.M. PAKEER MOHAMED: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to State:

(a) whether the Import duty on finished graphic art film was reduced in 1989 whereas Import duty on raw materials (Jumbo-rolls) was retained;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the details of importers who imported the graphic art films at the reduced rate of duty;

(c) whether the Jumbo rolls have different rates of Customs duty and are also subject to inspection at all ports;

(d) if so, the reasons therefor;

(e) whether there have been com-

plaints regarding import of photographic coloured paper in Jumbo rolls by misdeclaration of the width; and

(f) if so, the details thereof and the action taken or proposed to be taken by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE): (a) to (d). In 1989, rate of import duty on finished graphic art film, when imported into India, by a Newspaper Establishment registered with Registrar of Newspapers for India appointed under Section 19A of the Press and Registration of Books Act, 1867 (25 of 1867) was reduced to 40% ad valorem vide Notion. No. 103/89-Customs dated 1.3.89. Jumbo rolls of graphic art films attract concessional rate of import duty of 105% ad valorem vide Notif. No. 216/88-Customs dated 7.7.88 subject to the condition that the importer holds an industrial licence under the Industries (Development and regulation) Act, 1951 (6 of 1951), for slitting and confectioning of photo-sensitised material from Jumbo rolls and gives an undertaking to that effect. Importers not fulfilling the conditions stipulated in the aforesaid notification 216/88 are liable to pay standard rate of import duty of 145% ad valorem for import of jumbo rolls of graphic art film.

The details of importers, who imported the graphic art films at the reduced rate of duty is given in the attached Statement.

Jumbo rolls of photo sensitive goods on import are subjected to inspection at all ports by the customs authorities before clearance. Inspection is done to check the mark found on the goods to verify the description, length, width etc. With reference to the documents produced for clearance. The packages are not opened in entirety for examination as these goods are photo sensitive and cannot be exposed to light thereby rendering them worthless.

(e) & (f). Complaints were received that some importers of jumbo rolls of photographic paper were indulging in evasion of customs duty by misdeclaring their width. In pursuance of these complaints, joint searches were conducted by the Central Economic Intelligence Bureau and the Directorate of Revenue Intelligence at the office and factory premises of M/s. Bhimtal Photofilms Ltd. Bhimtal (Nainital) and M/s. Northern Plastics Ltd., Ghaziabad on 24.1.90. Incriminating documents and goods were seized during the searches. Preliminary investigations reveal that the firms were misdeclaring the actual width of films. The past imports made by these firms are also being scrutinised. Investigations are in progress.

Appropriate action will be taken on completion of investigations

STATEMENT

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|----|------|--|-----|------|--|
| 1. | M/s. | Indian Express, Madurai. | 10. | M/s. | Vishwamitra Karyalya, Calcutta. |
| 2. | " | Kasthuri & Sons, Madras. | 11. | " | Cine Advance, Calcutta. |
| 3. | " | Ushodaya Enterprises, Hyderabad. | 12. | " | Saswat Printers (P) Ltd., Varanasi. |
| 4. | " | Malayalam Manorama, Kottayam. | 13. | " | Jnamandal Ltd., Varanasi. |
| 5. | " | Kumudam Printers, Madras. | 14. | " | Ananda Bazar Patrika Ltd., Calcutta. |
| 6. | | Manipal Printers & Publishers Ltd., Manipal. | 15. | " | The Chitra Katha Kali Gali, Cuttack. |
| 7. | " | The Printers Myltd., Bangalore. | 16. | " | The Sarala Kali Gali, Cuttack. |
| 8. | " | Deccan Chronicle, Secunderabad. | 17. | " | Bigyana Prabha Sambad, Asansol. |
| 9. | " | Dinamalar, Madurai. | 18. | " | Paschim Banga Sambad, Asansol. |
| | | | 19. | " | Awaze Mulk-Urdu-Daily, Varanasi. |
| | | | 20. | " | Aajkal, Calcutta. |
| | | | 21. | " | Janaarta Hindi Daily, Varanasi. |
| | | | 22. | " | Midday Publications, Bombay. |
| | | | 23. | " | Hind Samachar Ltd., Jalandhar. |
| | | | 24. | " | Dainik Samana, Bombay. |
| | | | 25. | " | Padam Pratishthan Unit Matrubhucha, Akola. |
| | | | 26. | " | The Indian National Press Ltd., Bombay. |

27. M/s. Brijwasi Printers (P) Ltd., New Delhi.
28. " Ajanta Offset & Packaging Ltd., Delhi.
29. " The Pioneer Ltd., Lucknow.
30. " Jaihind Publications, Rajkot.
31. " All India Reporters Ltd., Nagpur.
32. " Navhind Press Publication, Goa.
33. " Mayapuri, New Delhi.
34. " SS Brijbasi & Sons, Delhi
35. " New Bharat, Nagpur.
36. " Rashtradoot, Jaipur.
37. " Warsha Publication PVR Ltd. Bombay.
38. ' Sakal Papers (P) Ltd., Pune.
39. " Janashakti, Jalagaon.
40. " Bennet Coleman Co. Ltd., New Delhi.
41. " Western Time Publication (P) Ltd., Ahmedabad
42. " Indian National Press, Indore.
43. " Jagaran Prakashan (P) Ltd., Kanpur.
44. " Kesari Maratha Trust Pune.

45. M/s. Daily Jagran, Jhansi.
46. " Kerala Kawmuthi, Trivandrum.
47. " STR Publications, Trivandrum.
48. " Living Media Ltd., New Delhi.

Telecasting of a Documentary on Poll

3838. SHRI MULLAPPALLY RAMACHANDRAN: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have prohibited the telecasting of a documentary on poll titled " Democracy and Money Power Ringmasters" ;

(b) if so, the reasons for refusing to telecast the same ;

(c) whether Government have received reports of allegation of corruption in the Doordarshan in granting sanction for telecasting films; and

(d) if so, the measures adopted or contemplated to prevent such corrupt practices?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING AND MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI P. UPENDRA): (a) and (b). A programme commissioned by Doordarshan on the misuse of Money and Power during elections was held back by Doordarshan as its telecast would have infringed the guidelines issued by the Election Commission.

(c) and (d): The Government have been

receiving, from time to time, reports containing allegations of corruption in Doordarshan. As and when such reports contain specific allegations, which can be verified, the matter is duly looked into. It is the endeavour of Government to remove all possible sources of mal-practices in the organisation.

Mineral Production in Orissa

3839. SHRI ANADI CHARAN DAS: Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a ban on the production and export of certain minerals in Orissa;

(b) if so, whether Government propose to review the ban orders; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF ENERGY AND MINISTEROF CIVILAVIATION (SHRIARIF MOHAMMAD KHAN)

(a) to (C): There is no ban on mineral production or expansion of production proposals of minerals in Orissa. Due to the need for conservation of certain minerals as well as their requirement by domestic users, some restrictions on export of these minerals are imposed from time to time. The matter is, however, periodically reviewed.

Development of Ratnagiri Mahavihar in Orissa

3840. SHRI ANADI CHARAN DAS: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that Ratnagiri Mahavihar in the Cuttack District of Orissa, a one time internationally famous Buddhist University of Tantric Studies has become a centre of pilgrimage

for historians, archaeologists and tourists from all over the world;

(b) If so, the action taken to develop the area from tourism point of view and to provide tourist lodges, hotels, proper road-communication from the District/ sub-Divisional headquarters to floodlit the monument and for an effective maintenance of the centre;

(c) whether Government are also contemplating to set up a Buddhist University on Tantric studies based on its ancient ideology; and

(d) the details of assistance being rendered/ proposed to be rendered to the State for the purpose?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND TOURISM: (SHRI ARUN KUMAR NEHRU):

(a) and (b). The Central Tourism Department consider specific proposals received from the State Governments for financial assistance on the basis of their merits, inter-se-priorities and availability of funds for developing Tourism infrastructure at places of historical interest. In case of Ratnagiri Mahavihar, no specific proposal has been received from the State Government.

(e) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

Rupee-Rouble Exchange Rate

3841. SHRI K.S. RAO: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the basis on which rupee-rouble exchange rate is fixed currently ;

(b) whether India has been facing problems in fixation of rupee-rouble exchange rate and repatriation of profits of Indian joint ventures in the Soviet Union;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether these problems were discussed in any bilateral meetings between the two countries; and

(e) if so, the details and the outcome thereof?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE): (a) The Rupee-Rouble exchange rate is fixed in accordance with the Protocol of 25.11.1978 between the Governments of India and the USSR.

(b) to (c). government of India have faced no problem with fixation of the Rupee-Rouble exchange rate since the mechanism for this purpose is well defined in the November 1978 Protocol. As far as profit repatriation is concerned, discussions were held in February 1990 with a Soviet Finance Ministry delegation on ways and means of repatriation of Rouble profits of Indo-Soviet joint ventures in the USSR. At the end of those discussions an understanding was arrived at in respect of repatriations of Rouble profits of such joint ventures. However, further discussions are required and are expected to be held later in the year to decide, inter-alia, on the different categories of joint ventures to which this understanding is to apply. Subsequent to that, an inter-Governmental agreement would be required to be signed

Mediclaim Scheme of General Insurance Corporation

3842. **SHRIK.S. RAO:** Will the Minister of Finance be pleased to state:

(a) the objectives behind Mediclaim scheme introduced by the General Insurance Corporation in 1986;

(b) the incentives offered for making the scheme popular;

(c) the number of policies taken by the beneficiaries and the premia received therefor since 1986;

(d) whether the response to the scheme has not been as encouraging as envisaged by the Corporation;

(e) if so, the reasons therefore; and

(f) the steps contemplated to popularise the Mediclaim Scheme?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE): (a) The objective behind introducing Mediclaim Insurance Cover is to provide health insurance to citizens of India.

(b): The general insurance industry has offered various incentives in the Mediclaim Insurance Scheme from time to time since its introduction in November, 1986 to make it more popular. These include:-

- (i) 20% Co-insurance clause removed.
- (ii) Minimum age limite of children for coverage under the Scheme was reduced from 12 years to 5 years. With effect from 15th march, 1990, this has been lowered down to 3 months provided the parents are also covered under the Scheme.
- (iii) One low premium category i.e. Category VI also introduced.
- (iv) With effect from 15th March, 1990, persons above the age of 70 years are also covered without loading the premium. The total benefit amount will, however, be reduced by 10% in respect of persons between the ages of 70 & 75 years and by 20% in respect of persons above the age of 75 years.
- (v) Under Group Policy, discount in premium is considered where domiciliary hospitalisation cover is not taken.
- (vi) Tax benefit under Section 80 D of the Income Tax (Amendment) Act, 1986 on the premium payable upto Rs. 3,000/- is also available under the Scheme.

(c) The information relating to number of individual mediclaim policies issued and the premium received is as under:-

Number of policies issued - 2,57,590
Amount of premium - Rs. 28.22 Crores

(d) to (f). Response to the Scheme has been quite encouraging, and it is a popular Scheme.

Curbs on Recruitment of Staff in Banks

3843. SHRI K.S.RAO: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has imposed fresh curbs on recruitment of staff in the commercial banks;

(b) if so, the details of the instruction issued by the RBI in this regard;

(c) whether these curbs will not affect the customer services in the banks which have greatly deteriorated due to shortage of staff; and

(d) if not, the steps proposed to improve the customer services in the banks?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE): (a) to (d). Reserve Bank of India has recommended a slight tightening of norms for expansion of manpower in public sector banks. This is in view of the fact that there still exist pockets of surplus staff, particularly in Metropolitan and Urban areas and with a view to keeping the productivity in banks above the likely rise in establishment expenses consequent upon revision of wages etc. of bank employees. The expansion of manpower in banks had been subjected to certain ceilings since 1987 and no adverse customer feed back due to shortage of staff as such has been reported to the banks. The Banks have been advised to redeploy their existing surplus staff to deficit areas so that manpower requirements of such areas can be taken care of.

Trade Balances with Foreign Countries

3844. SHRI N. DENNIS: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) the names of countries with which India has adverse trade balances; and

(b) the steps being taken to narrow down the trade imbalance with these countries?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND TOURISM (SHRI ARUN KUMAR NEHRU):

(a) The principal countries in respect of which India has adverse trade balance during April-December 1989 include Belgium, U.K., FRG, Saudi-Arabia, Kuwait, U.A.E., Australia, Singapore, Malaysia, Korea Republic, Iran, France, Canada, Sweden, Japan, Yugoslavia, Italy, Morocco, Switzerland, Netherland, etc.

(b) The steps taken by the Government to narrow down the trade imbalance with these countries include bilateral trade negotiations, holding of buyer-seller meets, organization of exhibition and fairs abroad, exchange of delegations, market studies etc. Simultaneously, a series of initiatives have been taken to generate export surplus and to restrict import of non-essential items.

Export of Engineering Goods

3845. SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY:
SHRI DHARMESH PRASAD VARMA:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) the value of export of engineering goods during the last two years; and

(b) the efforts being made to increase the export of engineering goods during the current year?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND TOURISM (SHRI ARUN KUMAR NEHRU):

(a) The value of export of engineering goods including electronics and computer software during the last two years is as under:-

<i>Year</i>	<i>Exports (Value: Rs. Crores)</i>
1987-88 (PR)	1433.04
1988-89 (PR)	2321.66
1989-90 (P) (April-December 1989)	2233.65
1988-89 (April-December 1988)	1580.38

(SOURCE: DGCI & S, CALCUTTA).

(b) There has been a steady increase in the export of engineering goods these years. The following are the efforts made to increase the export of engineering goods during the current year.

- (i) CCS rates of various engineering items announced with effect from 1.4.1989 is continuing during the current year.
- (ii) The REP Scheme for registered exporters has been rationalised and simplified to provide flexibility and transferability. Greater impetus will be given to export of products with higher domestic value addition. The rate of import replenishment has also been simplified varying from 15-20%.
- (iii) Import of capital goods by registered exporters will be permitted without formal licensing approval and exporter can use the full value of his own REP licences in his own name to import capital goods required of the value involved.
- (iv) To enable exporters to be internationally competitive a scheme for import of capital goods at conces-

sional rate of customs duty for export production has been introduced. Under this scheme, regular-manufacture exporters would be eligible to import capital goods up to a value of Rs. 10 crore (cif) with an obligation to perform additional exports of products, related to the capital goods imported for value equal to three times the value of the imported CG.

- (v) A Blanket Advance Licensing Scheme has been formulated to enable leading exporters with export of Rs. 10 crores or in terms of net foreign Exchange earned to cover their requirements of their duty-free imported inputs.
- (vi) The International Price Reimbursement Scheme has been rationalised with a view to ensure the export of value added products.
- (vii) The Engineering Export Promotion Council (EEPC) which is the nodal agency for export of engineering goods proposes to sponsor delegations abroad, organise participations in exhibitions in India and abroad, conduct market survey through its offices abroad with a view to exploring more markets for our engineering goods.
- (viii) Proposal to set up warehousing in strategic points in USA are also being considered.
- (ix) Concessional import duty have been prescribed from time to time on machinery required for various export thrust sectors. These concessions have been extended to the forged hand tool industry during the current year.

Canalisation Of MICA Exports

3846. SHRI R.L.P. VERMA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) the figures of processed mica export before its canalisation in 1971-72;

(b) the position in 1988-89;

(c) whether Government propose to decanalise the export of processed mica; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND TOURISM (SHRI ARUN KUMAR NEHRU): (a) and (b). Export of Processed Mica before its canalisation in 1971-72 and in 1988-89 is given under.

Qty: in 000' tonnes

Val: in Rs. Crores

<i>Year</i>	<i>Quantity</i>	<i>Value</i>
1971-72	19.63	15.23
1988-89	15.98	23.31

(c) and (d). T. Chandra Sekhar Reddy Committee which recently went into the problems of mica industry and trade has, inter-alia, recommended 100% canalisation of export of processed mica through MITCO/MMTC for exports to Rupee Payment Area Countries and decanalisation of exports to General Currency Area Countries. Representations have also been received for total de-canalisation of Processed Mica as well as canalisation of Processed Mica. While taking a decision on the recommendations of the Committee, Government will give due considerations to the representations received against and for total de-canalisation of Processed mica.

[Translation]**Export Duty On Mica**

3847. SHRI R.L.P. VERMA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) the total tax revenue received by Government as export duty on mica during 1989-90 till now; and

(b) the percentage thereof spent for providing support to the declining mica trade and alround development of mica belt?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND TOURISM (SHRI ARUN KUMAR NEHRU): (a) The tax revenue collected as export duty and export cess on mica during the period 1.4.1989 to 31.1.1990 in 1989-90 is Rs. 2.06 crores and Rs. 1.08 crores respectively.

(b) In respect of export cess (Labour Welfare Cess) during 1989-90 upto Jan., 1990 Rs. 1.38 crores have been incurred on various welfare activities for the workers engaged in the Mica Mining as against a collection of Rs. 1.08 crores.

Mica trading Corporation Ltd., (MITCO) has invested about Rs. 1.71 crores during 1989-90 (April-December) on various schemes being implemented by it to produce value added mica products.

[English]**Mining Rejects In Goa**

3848. PROF. GOPALRAO MAYEKAR: Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the problems faced by the agricultural community in mining areas of Goa State due to uncontrolled dumping of mining rejects in the river beds;

(b) whether prompt removal of the rejects and payment of adequate compensation are lawfully implemented; and

(c) if not, the steps proposed by the Government to protect the interest of agricultural community?

THE MINISTER OF ENERGY AND MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI ARIF MOHAMMAD KHAN): (a) to (c). The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Effect of Service Area Approach on Rural Credit Delivery System

3849. SHRI BASUDEB ACHARIA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the nationalised banks have adopted Service Area Approach in order to improve rural credit delivery system;

(b) whether any assessment has been made about the performance of banks under the above system; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE): (a) to (c). With a view to optimise the productivity of rural

lending of banks, the Service Area approach to rural lending was put into operation from the 1st of April, 1989 with the intention of assigning specific areas to each bank branch to enable it to concentrate for productive lending. Under this approach a group of 15 to 25 villages were allotted to rural or semi-urban bank branch with a view to bringing about an orderly and planned disbursement of credit. The implementation of the scheme is being monitored by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) and suitable modifications will be considered by them as the when required.

Import of Steel

3850. SHRI M.M. PALLAM RAJU: Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state:

(a) the quantity of steel imported into the country and the amount of foreign exchange spend on it during the last three years, year-wise; and

(b) the percentage of production of steel by public and private sectors during the above period?

THE MINISTER OF ENERGY AND MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI ARIF MOHAMMAD KHAN): (a) Quantity and value of imports of steel during the last three years is given below:

Year	Quantity (million Tonnes)	Value (Rs. in crores)
1986-87	2.56	974
1987-88	1.69	1017

1988-89 (P) Authoritative figures are not yet available from the Director General of Commercial Intelligence & Statistics, Calcutta.

(P) Provisional.

(b) The percentage production of saleable steel by Public and private sectors

during the above period is as follows:

<i>Year</i>	<i>% age Production</i>	
	<i>Public Sector (SAIL/IISCO)</i>	<i>Private Sector (Including TISCO)</i>
1986-87	58.95	41.05
1987-88	59.12	40.88
1988-89	60.48	39.52

Steel Production

3851. SHRI BHAGEY GOBARDHAN:
Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state:

(a) the target and actual production of various types of steel during 1989-90;

(b) the production of steel during the corresponding period of 1988-89; and

(c) the causes of the shortage in production, if any and the steps being taken to increase the production?

THE MINISTER OF ENERGY AND MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI ARIF MOHAMMAD KHAN): (a) and (b). Category-wise targets for steel production are fixed for the main producers only. The information in respect of the main producers (SAIL/IISCO/TISCO) for finished steel is given below:

(000 tonnes)

<i>Finished Steel</i>	<i>1989-90</i>		<i>1988-89</i>
	<i>Target</i>	<i>Production (Estimated)</i>	<i>Production</i>
Long Products	3067	2618	2647
Flat Products	5004	4352	4447
Total	8156	6970	7094

(c) The shortage in production during 1989-90 has been mainly due to slippage in production by SAIL on account of both internal and external factors. The blast furnace of the Durgapur Steel Plant has been in poor health and that of the Bhilai Steel Plant had

some stabilisation problems. The Bhilai Steel Plant also suffered disruptions in iron ore supplies due to industrial relations problems. Further, there have been severe power restrictions from DVC, particularly for Bokaro. The production also suffered due to inade-

quate supplies of coking coal and its inconsistent quality.

The performance of the main producers is being continuously monitored and corrective steps of increase production, inter-alia, include increased captive power generation, technological upgradation and better maintenance of equipment, strict adherence to technological parameters and adoption of work practices conducive to higher productivity.

Export of Diamond

3852. SHRI BHAGEY GOBARDHAN:
Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) the total foreign exchange earned from the export of diamond during 1989-90; and

(b) the steps taken to increase the export of diamond in 1990-91?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND TOURISM (SHRI ARUN KUMAR NEHRU):

(a) The foreign exchange earned from the export of cut and polished diamonds during April-February, 1989-90 as reported by the Gem and Jewellery Export Promotion Council (GJEPC) was Rs. 4336.14 crores.

(b) In order to increase export of cut and polished diamonds, Government has already

taken a series of measures which includes placement of tools, equipment and accessories of manufacture on the Open General Licence list for imports at concessional duty, improvement in Bank facility, easier access to raw diamonds, revision in the scales of import replenishment against exports and exemption of profits from exports under Sec.80 HHC of the Income Tax Act. Government maintains a close watch on the progress of exports with a view to providing further input support whenever necessary.

Making of Films in Collaboration with Foreign Countries

3853. SHRI MANORANJAN BHAKTA:
Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal for making films in collaboration with any foreign countries; and

(b) if so, details thereof and the nature of collaboration arrived at with each of the countries?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING AND MINISTER OF PALIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI P. UPENDRA): (a) and (b). Yes, Sir. A statement indicating proposals for foreign collaboration in respect of feature films received from 1st January 1989 to 31st March 1990 is enclosed.

STATEMENT

The details of proposals (received from 1st January 1989 to 31st March 1990) for making feature films in collaboration with foreign countries including the nature of collaboration arrived at are given below:

<i>Sl.No.</i>	<i>Name of the film</i>	<i>Indian Party</i>	<i>Foreign Party</i>	<i>Nature of Collaboration</i>	<i>Remarks</i>
<i>1</i>	<i>2</i>	<i>3</i>	<i>4</i>	<i>5</i>	<i>6</i>
1.	Chakha Proshakha	Satyajit Ray Productions Calcutta.	Eroto Films Paris, France	Financial participation by the Indian party at 65% of the cost and 35% by the French Party.	Film under production
2.	Chikari	M/s. Eagle Films, Bombay.	Creative Production Association "Shark-Films" Tashkent USSR.	Cost of production to be shared equally by both Parties.	Production proposed to be completed during 1990
3	Red People	Seshadri Films, Kerala.	Kattarsis Films Alma Ata, USSR	Proposal Includes, inter alia, financial collaboration.	Production proposed to be completed in 1990.
4.	Dash Hammet Chasing the Dragon	Prabhu Movies, Madras.	Dharlin Entertainment, INC. Los Angeles, USA.	Proposal includes, inter alia, financial collaboration.	Schedule yet to be indicated by the Indian Party.
5.	Princes from Kathmandu	Kaleidoscope Films, Bombay.	Dr. Arjun Singh Gaur, UK	Cost to be shared equally by both parties.	Proposal under examination.

<i>Sl.No.</i>	<i>Name of the film</i>	<i>Indian Party</i>	<i>Foreign Party</i>	<i>Nature of Collaboration</i>	<i>Remarks</i>
<i>1</i>	<i>2</i>	<i>3</i>	<i>4</i>	<i>5</i>	<i>6</i>
6.	Hawk's Eye	M.C. Suresh Madras Chakraborty	Angel Films. Ltd., Singapore.	Yet to be received from the Indian party	Proposal to be examined on receipt.
7.	Two Virgins	N.F.D.C. Ltd., Bombay.	M/s. Two Virgins Productions, Los Angeles.	Proposal includes inter alia, financial collaboration.	Contract outlining terms and conditions yet to be executed.

Seizure of Heroin at Delhi Airport

3854. SHRI P. M. SAYEED: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether a large quantity of heroin was seized at the Indira Gandhi International Airport, New Delhi in the last week of February, 1990;

(b) if so, the details of the case including the particulars of the smugglers nabbed; and

(c) the disposal of the heroin thus seized?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Six Nigerian national were intercepted while boarding KLM Flight No. 836 on 26.2.90. On detailed checking of their baggages, 18,220 kgs. of suspected heroin was recovered. On the basis of the investigations, two more Nigerians were also arrested subsequently. The particulars of the persons arrested are as follows:

	<i>Name of the person</i>	<i>Passport No.</i>
1.	Mr. John Obumneme S/o Late Jerry Obumneme	A-434764
2.	Mr. Chakwuma Okpala S/o Okpala	A-742095
3.	Mr. Emmanuel Uehemna Uzodimna	A-653832
4.	Miss Juliana Amaka Igwebuike	A-693272
5.	Mr. Taiwo Olijide Dalima	A-245574
6.	Mr. Gregory Ebele Ugaroh	A-679529
7.	Mr. Caleb Okpala	A-653795
8.	Mr. Mackennedy Emeka Uzomah	A-788043

(c) The seized drug would be destroyed after completion of due legal/procedural formalities.

[*Translation*]

Expansion of Bokaro Steel Plant

3855. SHRI A.K. ROY:
SHRI R.L.P. VERMA:

Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is proposal to expand Bokaro Steel Plant to 10 million ton capacity; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF ENERGY AND MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI ARIF MOHAMMAD KHAN): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Question does not arise.

[*English*]

Development of Sites and Places Depicting Indian Culture and Civilization

3856. SHRI PARASRAM BHARDWAJ:
Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) the details regarding the schemes formulated to encourage tourism;

(b) whether Government have included the development of sites and places depicting Indian Culture and Civilization also under the said scheme; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND TOURISM (SHRI ARUN KUMAR NEHRU):

(a) to (c). The Central Department of Tourism provides financial assistance to the State Government for the strengthening of tourism infrastructure at various tourist centres based on specific proposals, availability of funds and inter-se priorities. The schemes under this programme include the construction of Tourist Complexes, Wayside amenities, Yatrikas, Yatri Niwases, Restaurants/Cafeterias, Transport for viewing Wildlife, Forest Lodges, Equipment for adventure sports, Floodlighting of monuments, Sound and Light Shows, Assistance for fairs and festivals etc.

For the development of cultural tourism centres, the Department of Tourism provides facilities at the national heritage centres, important monuments and pilgrimage places, etc. Due publicity is also being provided for various festivals projecting specific culture in the various States/Union Territories.

Import of Electronics, Machine Tools and Watches

3857. SHRI YASHWANTRAO PATIL:
Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to cut the import of components of electronics, machine tools and watches; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND TOURISM (SHRI ARUN KUMAR NEHRU):
(a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

Customs Duty Concession on Imports of Low Phosphorus Metallurgical Coke

3858. SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA:
Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the concession, in reducing Customs duty from 85 % per cent to 20 percent granted last year on imports of low phosphorus metallurgical coke for manufacturing pig iron, with a view to encouraging small pig iron manufacturers, has been misused by pig industrial houses, who imported ship loads of such coke and used it for manufacture of other products like detergents; and

(b) the steps proposed to be taken by Government in this regards?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE): (a) and (b). Import duty for low phosphorous coke was reduced from 85 % to 20% ad valorem with effect from the 1st March, 89. The relevant exemption notification did not restrict the exemption to any class or importers and under the import policy then in force, the item could be imported by any actual user. Under the new Import Policy effective from 1.4.90, Metallurgical Coal (Ash content below 12 %) / Coke (Ash content below 15 %), and Australian

Char required by Metallurgical Industry have been kept under O.G.L. Coal/ Coke not elsewhere specified have been placed under the list of Restricted Items.

SAIL's Collaboration with Joint Sector Companies in Bihar

3859. SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA: Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Steel Authority of India Limited propose to diversify its activities in collaboration with joint sector companies in Bihar with a view to utilising the raw materials and by-products available with the Bokaro Steel Plant; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF ENERGY AND MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI ARIF MOHAMMAD KHAN): (a) and (b). Yes, Sir, SAIL propose to have following joint venture project at Bokaro:

<i>Sl. No</i>	<i>Name of Project</i>	<i>By-products to be used</i>	<i>Name of the co-promoters</i>
1.	1 million tonne per per annum Slag Cement Plant.	Blast Furnace Slag.	Bihar State Industrial Development Corporation Ltd. (BSIDC) and Orient Paper Industries Ltd.
2.	50,000 TPA Caprolactum Plant.	Benzene Anhydrous Ammonia	BSIDC and Shriram Fibres Ltd., Delhi.

For the Caprolactum Plant some quantities of Benzene and Anhydrous Ammonia are to be supplied from other SAIL plants also.

Performance of Export Processing Zones

3860. SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) the performance of various Export Processing Zones in different States during 1988-89 and 1989-90, indicating the targets and achievements;

(b) whether there are any proposals for expansion or setting up of new E.P.Z.s; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND TOURISM (SHRI ARUN KUMAR NEHRU):

(a) A Statement is given below.

(b) and (c). Government have taken up expansion of the Zones at Noida, Madras and SEEPZ and the development work in the seventh zone at Visakhapatnam, notified on 15.3.1989, is under way.

STATEMENT

The export targets and achievements by various Export Processing Zones during 1988-89 and 1989-90 are as under:—

Zones	1988-89		1989-90	
	Export Targets	Achievement	Export Targets	Achievement
	(Rs. in crores)			
1	2	3	4	5
Kandla Free Trade Zone	200.00	271.59	300.00	286.15
Santaqruz Electronics EPZ	140.00	185.19	200.00	236.29
Noida Export Processing Zone	30.00	21.34	35.00	48.14
Madras Export Processing Zone	30.00	24.04	40.00	22.73
Falta Export Processing Zone	20.00	8.11	15.00	12.75
Cochin Export Processing Zone	8.50	6.25	15.00	10.37
Total :	428.50	516.52	605.00	616.43

Import of Newsprint

3861. SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether the State Trading Corporation is facing some difficulty in import of newsprint;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor and the names of countries which have declined to sell the newsprint to India;

(c) the quantity of newsprint proposed to be imported during 1990; and

(d) whether any alternative sources have been tapped to meet the requirement?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING AND MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI P. UPENDRA): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) The total quantity of newsprint to be imported during 1990-91 has been estimated at 2.70 lakh MT.

(d) Yes, Sir. Efforts are made every

year to add new sources to enlarge the supply base.

Bank Branches in Punjab

3862. SHRI KAMAL CHAUDHRY: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the names of banks working in Punjab;

(b) the number of branches of each public sector bank and regional rural bank working in Punjab as on 31 December, 1989;

(c) whether Government propose to open more bank branches in the State; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE): (a) and (b). Names of bank and number of branches of Public Sector Banks and Regional Rural Banks functioning in Punjab as on 31.12.1989 are indicated in the statement below.

(c) and (d). The previous Branch Licensing Policy (1985-90) come to an end on 31.3.1990. The new Branch Policy is being finalised by RBI.

STATEMENT

•	Name of Bank	No. of branches
	1	2

Part-A (Public Sector Banks including Regional Rural Banks)

1.	State Bank of India	217
2.	State Bank of Bikaner & Jaipur	6
3.	State Bank of Patiala	289
4.	Allahabad Bank	27

1	2
5. Andhra Bank	1
6. Bank of Baroda	42
7. Bank of India	57
8. Bank of Maharashtra	5
9. Canara Bank	70
10. Central Bank of India	86
11. Corporation Bank	2
12. Dena Bank	8
13. Indian Bank	21
14. Indian Overseas Bank	35
15. New Bank of India	132
16. Oriental Bank of Commerce	108
17. Punjab & Sind Bank	312
18. Punjab National Bank	335
19. Syndicate Bank	10
20. UCO Bank	85
21. Union Bank of India	52
22. United Bank of India	4
23. Vijaya Bank	6
24. Faridkot-Bhatinda Regional Rural Bank (RRB)	22
25. Gurdaspur-Amritsar RRB	53
26. Kapurthala-Ferozepur RRB	43

1	2
27. Malwa Gramin Bank	33
28. Shivalik Kshetriya Gramin Bank	41
<i>Part-B (Other Scheduled Banks)</i>	
29. Grindlays Bank PLC	2
30. Standard Chartered Bank	1
31. Bank of Rajasthan	3
32. Jammu & Kashmir Bank Limited	4

SAIL's Schemes

3863. SHRI CHITTA BASU: Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Steel Authority of India Limited has decided to update some schemes;

(b) if so, the details of the schemes with financial implications thereon;

(c) the steps taken for the expeditious implementation of those scheme; and

(d) the progress made so far in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF ENERGY AND MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI ARIF MOHAMMAD KHAN): (a) and (b). Review of need for technological updation of various schemes is a continuous process in SAIL. In order to improve productivity, reduce production costs and improve techno economic performance, SAIL proposes to modernise 4 of its integrated steel plants at Durgapur, Rourkela, IISCO (Burnpur) and Bokaro.

While the Government have approved modernisation of steel plants at Durgapur and Rourkela at an estimated cost of Rs. 2667 crores and Rs. 2461 crores, investment proposals for modernisation of IISCO and Bokaro are under consideration.

(c) In order to ensure implementation of projects within the approved cost and time frame, various steps taken include delegation of adequate financial and administrative powers to the project team, well defined centres of responsibility for each project component and closer monitoring.

(d) Orders for six global packages and eight out of ten indigenous packages have been finalised for Durgapur modernisation. Orders for seven out of ten packages under phase-I and one package under phase-II of Rourkela modernisation have also been finalised.

'In principle' approval for modernisation of IISCO and Bokaro has been approved and investment decision is likely to be taken shortly.

[*Translation*]

Export of Marble

3864. SHRI GULAB CHAND KATARIA:
Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) the amount of marble imported during the last five years and the names of countries from where imported;

(b) whether marble import has adversely affected the marble producers; and

(c) whether Government propose to impose a ban on the import of marble and encourage its export?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND TOURISM (SHRI ARUN KUMAR NEHRU):

(a) Data showing import of Marble are published in the "Monthly, Statistics of Foreign Trade of India Vol. II (IMPORTS)" Brought out by Directorate General of Commercial Intelligence and Statistics, Calcutta, copies of which are available in Parliament Library.

(b) and (c). Marble appears in the list of restricted items in the current policy and its import is not normally allowed. Hence there is no likelihood of imports affecting domestic marble producers adversely. Further, Generally, an export obligation for export of marble slabs and tiles is imposed at the time of allowing the import of relevant capital goods. Under the 1990-93 Import-Export Policy, import replenishment at the rate of 5 % has been allowed on the export of this item to encourage its export.

[*English*]

Indira Vikas Patra

3865. PROF. K.V. THOMAS: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the amount received through Indira Vikas Patra so far; and

(b) how this amount has been utilised?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE): (a) The total collections on sale of Indira Vikas Patra from the date of introduction of the scheme, namely, 19.11.1986 till 31.1.1990 were Rs. 5900 crores.

(b) The net collections through Indira Vikas Patra, along with the collections under other small savings schemes, are utilised for giving long term loans to State Governments.

Supply of Pure Coffee to Consumers

3866. SHRI D.M. PUTTE GOWDA:
Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have taken any steps for producing and supplying pure coffee to consumers at reasonable price; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND TOURISM (SHRI ARUN KUMAR NEHRU):

(a) and (b). Coffee Board is running 71 promotional units in various parts of the country. Quality coffee in raw form, powder form and liquid form is supplied to the consuming public at reasonable rates through these units. Apart from this Coffee Board also appoints private individuals as agents to collect coffee powder and raw coffee from Board's promotional units and sell at places of their choice. This also ensures supply of quality coffee to the consuming public at reasonable prices.

Motor Insurance losses of Nationalised Insurance Companies

3867. SHRI R.N. RAKESH: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether all the nationalised insurance companies incurred heavy loss in motor insurance due to heavy disbursement made by the companies to the private finance companies who manage claims to receive their instalments from insurance companies through their lien on the motor insurance policies of their borrowers;

(b) if so, the details thereof?

(c) action taken/proposed to stop exploitation of the insurance companies by the private finance companies;

(d) whether Government propose to implement a scheme to receive premium only from the registered owner and pay claims also to the registered owner of the vehicle and if so, details thereof; and

(e) whether Government propose to charge loading on premium where the motor policy is subject to lien to finance companies and also where the vehicle mortgaged to the private finance companies has a history of past claims?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE): (a) No, Sir. It is not correct to say that nationalised insurance companies are being exploited by the private finance houses, so as to collect their instalments from Insurance Companies.

(b) to (d). Do not arise.

(e) Effective 1st April, 1990, the revised motor tariff provides for loading of premium in the case of bad loss experience, for all insureds in general.

Losses of Subsidiaries of GIC

3868. SHRI R.N. RAKESH: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether all the subsidiaries of the General Insurance Corporation have incurring under-writing losses;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the remedial measures taken by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE) (a) and (b). In the last three years, the subsidiaries of the General Insurance Corporation of India have not incurred underwriting losses except in the year 1988-89 when they incurred under-writing losses to the extent of Rs. 106.84 Crores, mainly due to adverse motor claims experience. Even in the year 1988-89, the subsidiaries made gross profits amounting to Rs. 241.22 Crores because of their investment and other income.

(c) The general insurance industry has initiated several corrective measures with a view to containing the losses in motor insurance business, such as special technical audit of Divisional Offices identified as showing persistently high motor loss ratio, special review of all major accounts with a loss ratio of over 90% during the preceding 3 years, fixing of targets in cases of Divisions showing losses and monitoring of performance against these targets, inspection of vehicles in the case of larger claims, as far as possible by the Companies' own engineers and officers, and also surprise inspections of vehicles under repairs at garages, appointment of Automobile Engineers to survey small claims and also to oversee the work of surveyors etc.

Extension of T.V. Timings

3869. SHRI R.N. RAKESH: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal under consideration of Government to start television programme for 24 hours;

(i) if so, the details thereof?

(c) the time by which proposal is likely to become functional; and

(d) the funds allocated for this purpose?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING AND MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI P. UPENDRA): (a) No, Sir. There is no such proposal under consideration of the Government at present.

(b) to (d). Do not arise.

[Translation]

Earnings from Commercial Advertisements of Doordarshan

3870. SHRIRAJVEER SINGH: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) the earnings of Doordarshan on the 1st and 2nd Channel from commercial advertisements during 1987, 1988 and 1989, year-wise; and

(b) the name of the serial which earned maximum income through advertisements?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING AND MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI P. UPENDRA): (a) The gross commercial earnings of Doordarshan during the financial

years 1987-88, 1988-89 and 1989-90 were as follows:

1987-88	Rs. 136.30 crores
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1988-89	Rs. 161.26 crores
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1989-90	Rs. 210. 13 crores
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(b) It may not be proper to relate the revenue earned from the commercial advertisements to the telecast of a particular serial as several factors like the time categorisation of the programme, number of episodes telecast and time allotted for commercial advertisements, in addition to the nature of the programme itself, are involved. The highest income from commercial advertisements has been so far earned in connection with the telecast of the serial "Mahabharat".

Allocations to AIR/Doordarshan programmes in 8th Plan

3871. SHRIRAJVEER SINGH: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) the amount allotted for various programmes of All India Radio and Doordarshan in the Eighth Plan;

(b) the amount spent so far on the expansion of All India Radio and Doordarshan; and

(c) the locations selected for setting up All India Radio and Doordarshan Centres?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING AND MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI P. UPENDRA): (a) Eighth Five Year Plan of All India Radio and Doordarshan has not yet been finalised.

(b) An amount of approximately Rs. 600 crores by All India Radio and Rs. 715 crores

by Doordarshan were spent on their development during the 7th Plan.

(c) As the 8th Plan has not yet been finalised, the question of selection of locations does not arise.

[English]

Export of Tea during Seventh Plan

3872. SHRI SRIKANTHA DATTA NARASIMHA RAJA WADIYAR: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) the target set for the export of tea during the Seventh Five Year Plan (Year-wise);

(b) whether the target has been achieved in that plan period;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether Government have a proposal to increase the export of tea during the Eighth Plan; and

(e) if so, the details of plan drawn up thereon?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND TOURISM (SHRI ARUN KUMAR NEHRU):

(a) The VII Five Year Plan gives the export projections for commodities, including Tea in value terms. The export projections for tea for the terminal year of the VII Five Year Plan period (1989-90) was Rs. 770 Crores.

(b) and (c). Exports of tea from India during VII Plan period has been as follows:—

Year	Value of Exports (Rs./Cr.)
1985-86	674.25
1986-87	615.00
1987-88	621.82
1988-89*	644.26
1989-90* (Apr-Feb)	812.63
*Provisional	

(d) and (e). Yes, Sir. Government proposes to increase the export of tea during the VIII Plan period and a growth rate of 4% has been tentatively suggested in this regard.

Production of Coffee

3873. SHRI SRIKANTHA DATTA NARASIMHARAJA WADIYAR: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) the target set and total production of coffee during 1988-89 and 1989-90;

(b) whether Government are taking steps to increase the production of coffee; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND TOURISM (SHRI ARUN KUMAR NEHRU):
(a) to (c). The targets set and total production of coffee during 1988-89 and 1989-90 has been as under:

In tonnes		
Year (July-June)	Target	Achievement ,
1988-89	1,71,000	2,15,000
1989-90	1,80,000	1,30,000
		(Revised estimate)

Coffee crop being cyclic in nature is subject to fluctuations. To increase the production of coffee, the Government is implementing through the Coffee Board various schemes which include training of personnel in coffee culture, mobile soil testing/pest surveillance units, opening of coffee demonstration farms etc. The Coffee Board is also providing loans and subsidies to the growers to increase the production and productivity of their holdings.

Modernisation of VISL

3874. SHRI SRIKANTHA DATTA
NARASIMHARAJA
WADIYAR:
SHRI H.C. SRIKANTAIAH:

Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state:

(a) when was the Visvesvaraya Iron and Steel Ltd. (VISL) taken over by the Steel Authority of India Ltd.;

(b) whether Government have reviewed its performance;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether Government propose to modernise this plant; and

(e) if so, the steps taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF ENERGY AND MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI ARIF MOHAMMAD KHAN): (a) Visvesvaraya Iron & Steel Ltd. (VISL) was taken over by Steel Authority of India Ltd. (SAIL) with effect from 1.3.1989.

(b) and (c). VISL is now a subsidiary of SAIL and its performance is regularly reviewed both by the VISL Board (which includes Government and SAIL nominees) and also by SAIL.

(d) and (e). Government and SAIL are studying the modernisation and balancing facility needs of VISL through a task force set up for this purpose.

Setting up of Doordarshan Kendra at Vaishali, Bihar

3875. SHRIMATI USHA SINHA: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to set up a Doordarshan Kendra at Vaishali; and

(b) if so, the time by which the Kendra would be set up?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING AND MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI P. UPENDRA): (a) and (b). No, Sir. Virtually the whole of Vaishali district lies in the coverage area of the high power (10 KW) TV transmitter already functioning at Patna and some parts of the district, including Vaishali town, also receive TV service from the high power (1 KW) TV transmitter at Muzaffarpur.

Setting up of Cashew Board

3876. SHRI RAMESH CHENNI-
THALA:
PROF. SAVITHRI LAKSH-
MANAN:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have taken a decision to constitute a Cashew Board;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government of Kerala has submitted a memorandum objecting the constitution of the Board; and

(d) if so, the action taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND TOURISM (SHRI ARUN KUMAR NEHRU):

(a) to (d). The proposal to set up a Cashew Board is under consideration. Communications have been received from the Government of Kerala in this connection, which are being considered.

[*Translation*]

Representation from Catechu Industry

3877. SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have received representation from the Association of Catechu Industry of India highlighting their problems; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the measures being taken by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND TOURISM (SHRI ARUN KUMAR NEHRU):

(a) and (b). Yes, Sir, the Association have represented that import of Gambier extract (Nepal Katha) be banned to prevent adulteration of it with Katha. In this connection, it may be mentioned that Gambier Extract is an item listed in the Limited Permissible List of the IMPEX Policy, 1990-93 and as such it can be imported only by actual users against supplementary licences. Gambier is also allowed under REP Licences under flexibility provisions. Further, the representation alleges that large quantities of Nepal Katha are being smuggled into India and that action should be taken to stop this. Finance Ministry has already intensified its anti-smuggling

operations.

[*English*]

Opening of Bank Branches in Orissa

3878. SHRI ANADI CHARAN DAS: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of branches of the nationalised banks in Orissa, bank-wise;

(b) whether the branches of the nationalised banks are inadequate in Orissa;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the names of the places in the State where new branches of the nationalised banks will be opened during 1990-91?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE): (a) The number of branches of Public Sector Banks in Orissa as on 31.12.1989 (latest figures available), bank-wise are indicated in the Statement below.

(b) to (d). The Average Population per Bank Office (APPBO) in Orissa is 14,000 as against the Policy objective of having at least one bank office for a population of 17,000. A Task Force has been set up at the Bhubaneswar Regional Office of Reserve Bank of India to monitor the opening of branches under licences already granted but not implemented and an additional three months have been allowed for opening of such branches. The previous branch Licensing Policy (1985-90) came to an end on 31.3.1990. The new Branch Licensing Policy is being finalised by Reserve Bank of India.

STATEMENT*The number of branches of Public Sector Banks in Orissa as on 31.12.1989.*

<i>Name of Bank</i>	<i>No. of branches</i>
1. State Bank of India	377
2. State Bank of Bikaner & Jaipur	1
3. State Bank of Hyderabad	2
4. Allahabad Bank	43
5. Andhra Bank	69
6. Bank of Baroda	13
7. Bank of India	87
8. Canara Bank	31
9. Central Bank of India	41
10. Corporation Bank	2
11. Dena Bank	2
12. Indian Bank	33
13. Indian Overseas Bank	61
14. New Bank of India	10
15. Oriental Bank of Commerce	2
16. Punjab & Sind Bank	2
17. Punjab National Bank	22
18. Syndicate Bank	21
19. UCO Bank	147
20. Union Bank of India	36
21. United Bank of India	85
22. Vijaya Bank	5

Irregularities in Branches of Corporation Bank in Orissa

3879. SHRI ANADI CHARAN DAS: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether a large number of irregularities have been found in some branches of the Corporation Bank in Orissa;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether any investigation committee has been appointed in this regard; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and the time by which the report will be submitted by the committee?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE): (a) to (d). No, Sir. Corporation Bank has reported that it has only two branches in Orissa and that both these branches are rated 'satisfactory' for the last three years.

[Translation]

Development of Ramnagar (Barielly) for Tourism in Uttar Pradesh

3880. SHRI RAJVEER SINGH:
SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR
GANGWAR:

Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any scheme under consideration of Union Government to develop Ramnagar (Barielly) in Uttar Pradesh as a tourist centre where famous historical fort of Pandavas and Jain Temples are situated;

(b) if so, the steps being taken in this regard; and

† (c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND TOURISM (SHRI ARUN KUMAR NEHRU): (a) to (c). The State Government have not submitted any proposal for the development of Ramnagar (Barielly) as a tourist centre.

Indian Pavillion in International Basant Fair in Dubai

3881. SHRI PYARELAL KHANDELWAL: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether processed food, cotton and woollen garments were in great demand in the Indian pavillion in the International Basant Fair held recently in Dubai; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND TOURISM (SHRI ARUN KUMAR NEHRU): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) In the International Spring Fair held at Dubai World Trade Centre, Dubai (UAE) from February 27-March 10, 1990, the value of orders booked for processed food and cotton garments are Rs. 160.00 lakhs and Rs. 36.00 lakhs respectively, while serious trade enquiries in respect of processed food, cotton garments and woollen garments were to the tune of Rs. 215.00 lakhs, Rs. 130.00 lakhs and Rs. 40.00 lakhs respectively.

[English]

Agricultural Loans advanced by Banks in Uttar Pradesh

3882. SHRI C.M. NEGI: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of persons to whom agricultural loans were advanced by banks in Pauri, Chamoli, Dehradun and other hill

districts in Uttar Pradesh during the last three years alongwith the quantum thereof, bank-wise and district-wise;

(b) the steps being taken to promote lendings by banks to rural people and the farmers; and

(c) whether Government are aware that lendings by banks/financial institutions in hilly areas of Uttar Pradesh is incommensurate with the population?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE): (a) The information relating to agriculture loans advanced by commercial banks in hilly districts of Uttar Pradesh during the last three years, to the extent available is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

(b) and (c). A number of steps have been taken with a view to increase the flow of credit to small and marginal farmers and weaker sections such as concessional rate of interest at 10% per annum, non-compounding of interest on current dues, non-insistence on third party guarantee, or collateral security in respect of loans upto Rs. 10,000/-. In case of short term crop loans, the interest debited is not to exceed the principal amount. In case of crop failure, amount due is re-scheduled over a period of 3 to 5 years and fresh loans are given to farmers.

[Translation]

Prevention of illegal Exhibition of vulgar films

3883. SHRI GIRDHARI LAL BHARGAVA: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether dubbed South Indian Vulgar films are being freely shown for the last two years in the name of sex education;

(b) if so, the number of cases detected wherein censored scenes have been reinstated; and

(c) the action taken by Government to prevent such illegal exhibition?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING AND MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI P. UPENDRA): (a) From time to time complaints have been received alleging that some dubbed versions are obscene and vulgar. Recently Government received a complaint in respect of the following dubbed versions:—

- (i) MILAN KI PYAS (Hindi)
- (ii) PHELI RAAT (Hindi)
- (iii) GARAM JAWANI (Hindi)
- (iv) PYAR KE JALWE (Hindi)

It is possible that such films are advertised as sex education films. Government have ordered an inquiry under section 6 of the Cinematograph Act 1952 in respect of these films.

(b) Instances have been noticed of the cases of interpolation is a form of violation where portions which are disallowed by the Central Board of Film Certification or not shown to the Board during certification are exhibited as parts of certified films. The public, unaware of such interpolations, feel great indignation and anger for "allowing" such portions or granting certificates to such films. In 1989 the Board dealt with 7 major cases of interpolations.

(c) The responsibility for enforcement of the penal provisions of the Cinematograph Act 1952 rests with the State Governments and the Union Territory Administrations. They have powers to seize the prints of films suspected of being exhibited in viola-

tion of the conditions under which they have been certified. The Central Government have appealed to all the State Governments and the Union Territory Administrations for strict enforcement of the provisions of the Cinematograph Act 1952 against the offenders. Action to issue show cause notice for suspension or cancellation of censor certificates under Section 5E of the Cinematograph Act, 1952 in respect of about 20 films wherein the officers of the Central Board of Film Certification have found interpolations after due verification, has been initiated.

[English]

Memorandum submitted by Punjab National Bank Employees Union

3884 SHRI MADAN LAL KHURANA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Punjab National Bank Employees Union has submitted any memorandum to the Chairman and the Managing Director of the Bank recently;

(b) if so, details of the salient demands made therein together with details of action taken thereon;

(c) whether women employees, of the Bank, on promotion are required to do a tenure in the rural areas; and

(d) if so, the steps, if any, taken to exclude the posting of women in rural areas keeping in view the peculiarities of the situation in which women are placed?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE): (a) and (b). The

Punjab National Bank Workers' Organisation is reported to have submitted a Memorandum dated 17.3.1990 to be Chairman & Managing Director of Punjab National Bank. The demands raised by the Organisation include enhancement of income tax exemption limit upto Rs. 30,000, payment of bonus to all employees irrespective of their pay, pension as a third benefit; discontinuation of the policy of posting of lady employees in rural areas, participation by National Organisation of Bank Workers (NOBW) in Bipartite Settlements, interest-free conveyance loan, enhancement of housing loan, etc.

(c) and (d). As per guidelines issued by Government, all officers, including women officers, are required to do the stipulated tenure in rural areas. The requirements of rural posting being a service condition applicable to all officers equally, no exemption as such to women officers is permissible.

Export of Gold and Silver Jewellery

3885. SHRI KAMAL NATH: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) total amount of foreign exchange earned from export of gold and silver jewellery during 1987-88 and 1988-89; and

(b) the names of the countries to which these were exported?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND TOURISM (SHRI ARUN KUMAR NEHRU):

(a) The amount of foreign exchange earned from export of gold jewellery and non-gold jewellery including silver jewellery as reported by the Gem and Jewellery Export Promotion Council is as under:—

(Value in Rs. Crores)

<i>Year</i>	<i>Gold Jewellery</i>	<i>Non-Gold Jewellery (Including imitation jewellery, silver jewellery and synthetic stones)</i>
<i>1</i>	<i>2</i>	<i>3</i>
1987-88	86.21	6.30
1988-89	165.47	5.66

Source: GJEPC

(b) Gold jewellery is exported principally to U.K., U.S.A., U.A.E., Kuwait, Qatar and Japan.

Non-Gold Jewellery is exported mainly to U.S.A., Italy, U.K., F.R.G., Dubai (U.A.E.), Bahrain & Kuwait.

[Translation]

Organisation of a 'Tourism Fortnight' to attract Tourists

3886. SHRI GIRDHARI LAL BHARGAVA: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to organise a 'Tourism Fortnight' for domestic tourists in coordination with Railways and State Transport Corporations; and

(b) if so, whether Government propose to extend concessional travel facilities by Railways and State tourist buses during that fortnight?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND TOURISM (SHRI ARUN KUMAR NEHRU):

(a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

Decline in share market in Delhi

3887. SHRISANTOSH KUMARGANGWAR: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there has been decline in the share market of Delhi during the last 100 days;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps being taken by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE): (a) and (b). During this period the share prices on the Delhi Stock Exchange as per Delhi Stock Exchange Index have generally been steady, with some ups and downs, which are a normal part of any market. The index was 229.8 on 21st December 1989 and 224.4 on 30th March, 1990. A statement of daily Index is given below.

(c) Question does not arise.

STATEMENT			
<i>Delhi Stock Exchange Daily Index of Equity Prices</i>		<i>1</i>	<i>2</i>
<i>(Base Year 1983 = 100)</i>			
<i>Date</i>	<i>Index</i>		
<i>1</i>	<i>2</i>		
21.12.1989	229.82	25.01.1990	209.88
22.12.1989	233.55	29.01.1990	208.81
02.01.1990	233.38	30.01.1990	207.71
03.01.1990	227.96	01.02.1990	203.42
04.01.1990	226.19	02.02.1990	201.53
05.01.1990	226.74	05.02.1990	199.62
08.01.1990	228.95	06.02.1990	197.60
09.01.1990	226.55	07.02.1990	198.93
10.01.1990	229.16	08.02.1990	197.20
11.01.1990	229.06	09.02.1990	195.78
12.01.1990	226.12	12.02.1990	199.52
15.01.1990	223.54	13.02.1990	201.84
16.01.1990	219.74	14.02.1990	204.09
17.01.1990	217.55	15.02.1990	206.70
18.01.1990	217.43	16.02.1990	206.63
19.01.1990	209.94	19.02.1990	203.61
22.01.1990	207.81	20.02.1990	202.04
23.01.1990	211.96	21.02.1990	203.73
24.01.1990	212.11	22.02.1990	201.81
		26.02.1990	202.62
		27.02.1990	201.77
		28.02.1990	200.82
		01.03.1990	205.25

1	2
02.03.1990	203.94
05.03.1990	203.12
06.03.1990	201.68
07.03.1990	202.06
08.03.1990	200.68
09.03.1990	200.59
12.03.1990	202.68
13.03.1990	206.89
14.03.1990	206.17
15.03.1990	203.17
16.03.1990	204.69
19.03.1990	203.68
20.03.1990	213.17
21.03.1990	211.75
22.03.1990	217.09
23.03.1990	223.52
26.03.1990	222.80
27.03.1990	222.40
28.03.1990	225.47
29.03.1990	223.73
30.03.1990	224.43

Joint forum with EEC for capital investment

3888. SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether India and some European countries propose to jointly go in for capital investment and launch Industrial Co-operation programmes through a common forum; and

(b) if so, the prospects thereof and when it is likely to come into being?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE): (a) The European Community has recently created a financial instrument known as 'EC International Investment Partners' to promote foreign direct investment by private community enterprises in developing countries in the form of joint ventures with local firms.

(b) All proposals, including those from European Community countries, are and would continue to be examined under the existing policy framework.

TV Relay centres in Tribal areas

3889. SHRI NANDLAL MEENA: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) the names of places in tribal areas where Doordarshan Relay Centres have been opened and the places where these are proposed to be opened during the year 1990-91; and

(b) the tribal population being covered by these centres opened so far?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING AND MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI P. UPENDRA): (a) and (b). Besides the 43 TV

transmitters functioning in Arunachal Pradesh, Dadra and Nagar Haveli, Lakshadweep Islands, Nagaland, Meghalaya and Mizoram which have more than 50% Scheduled Tribe population, 179 TV transmitters are at present functioning in the 119 districts covered under the Tribal Sub-Plan areas. Locations of these transmitters are given below in Statements I & II respectively. These transmitters provide service to an estimated population of about 12.76 crores including tribal population. Besides, the following TV transmitters are envisaged to be commissioned into service in the Tribal Areas during 1990-91:—

1. High power (10KW) transmitter at Daltonganj—(Bihar)
2. High power (1KW) transmitter at Jagdalpur (in replacement of the existing low power transmitter)—(Madhya Pradesh)
3. High power (10 KW) transmitter at Raipur (in replacement of the existing 1 KW transmitter)—(Madhya Pradesh)
4. High power (1 KW) transmitter at Churachandpur—(Manipur)
5. High power (10 KW) transmitter at Bhawanipatna (in replacement of the existing low power transmitter)—(Orissa)
6. High power (1 KW) transmitter at Mokokchung—(Nagaland)
7. High power (1 KW) transmitter at Lunglei—(Mizoram)
8. Low power transmitter at Salumber—(Rajasthan)

STATEMENT - I

TV Transmitters in the States/Union Territories having more than 50% Scheduled Tribe Population

HPT (10) :	High Power (10 KW) transmitter	LPT :	Low Power Transmitter
HPT (1) :	High Power (1 KW) Transmitter	VLPT :	Very Low Power Transmitter
State/Union Territory	Transmitters (existing as on 6.4.1990)		
Arunachal Pradesh	HPT (1), Itanagar		
	LPT, Passighat		
	LPT, Tezu		
	VLPT, Daporijo		
	VLPT, Aong		

Nagaland

- VLPT, Anini
- VLPT, Basar
- VLPT, Bomdilla
- VLPT, Changlang
- VLPT, Dirang
- VLPT, Khonsa
- VLPT, Miao
- VLPT, Namsai
- VLPT, Raga
- VLPT, Roing
- VLPT, Seppa
- VLPT, Tawang
- VLPT, Ziro
- VLPT, Hayuliang
- HPT (1), Kohima
- LPT, Dimapur
- LPT, Tuensang
- VLPT, Mon
- VLPT, Wokha
- VLPT, Zunheboto
- Transposer, Kohima
- HPT (1), Aizawl
- VLPT, Lunglei
- VLPT, Saiha

Mizoram

Meghalaya

HPT (1), Shillong

HPT (10), Tura

LPT, Jowai

VLPT, Nongstion

Lakshdweep Islands

VLPT, Agatti

VLPT, Amini

VLPT, Andrott

VLPT, Chetlat

VLPT, Kalpeni

VLPT, Kavaratti

VLPT, Kadmat

VLPT, Minicoy

VLPT, Kilton

Dadra & Nagar Haveli

VLPT, Silvassa

STATEMENT - II

HPT	–	High Power (10 KW) Transmitter
HPT (1)	–	High Power (1 KW) Transmitter
LPT	–	Low Power Transmitter
VLPT	–	Very Low Power Transmitter

TV Transmitters functioning in Tribal Sub-Plan Districts

<i>State</i>	<i>Transmitters (existing as on 6.4.1990)</i>
--------------	---

1

2

1. Andhra Pradesh

LPT, Adilabad

LPT, Amalapuram

1

2

LPT, Kakinada

LPT, Rajamundry

LPT, Khammam

LPT, Kothagudam

LPT, Bhadrachalam

LPT, Srikakulam

HPT, Visakhapatnam

Transposer, Visakhapatnam

LPT, Warangal

LPT, Bheemadolu

2. Assam

HPT, Silchar

LPT, Tezpur

HPT, Dibrugarh

LPT, Kokrajhar

LPT, Goalpara

LPT, Dhubri

LPT, Nagaon

LPT, Nazira

LPT, Jorhat

HPT, Guwahati

Transposer, Guwahati

3. Bihar

HPT, Ranchi

1	2
	LPT, Dumka
	LPT, Deoghar
	LPT, Chaibasa
	LPT, Jamshedpur
	LPT, Ghatsila
4. Gujarat	LPT, Palanpur
	LPT, Ambaji
	LPT, Bhabhar
	LPT, Tharad
	LPT, Bharuch
	LPT, Kevadia Colony
	LPT, Dediapada
	LPT, Ahwa
	LPT, Godhra
	LPT, Dohad
	LPT, Songarh
	VLPT, Kakrapar
	LPT, Surat
	LPT, Kosamba
	LPT, Vadodra
	LPT, Chhota-Udaipur
	LPT, Navasari
	LPT, Valsad

1	2
5.	Himachal Pradesh
	VLPT, Chamba
	VLPT, Kalpa
	VLPT, Keylong
6.	Karnataka
	LPT, Chickmagalur
	LPT, Madikeri
	LPT, Mysore
	LPT, Mangalore
	LPT, Udipi
	LPT, Bantwal
7.	Kerala
	HPT, Trivandrum
	LPT, Pathanamthitta
	LPT, Idukki
	HPT, Cochin
	LPT, Malappuram
	LPT, Calicut
	LPT, Kalpetta
	LPT, Tellicherry
	LPT, Cannanore
	LPT, Palghat
	LPT, Shoranur
8.	Madhya Pradesh
	LPT, Malanjhand
	LPT, Balaghat
	LPT, Jagdalpur

1

2

LPT, Bailadila

LPT, Kanker

LPT, Betul

LPT, Bilaspur

LPT, Korba

LPT, Chindwara

LPT, Rajara-jhardulli

LPT, Harda

LPT, Itarsi

LPT, Punchmarhi

LPT, Jhabua

LPT, Khandwa

LPT, Burhanpur

LPT, Khargaon

LPT, Mandla

LPT, Sheopur

LPT, Raigarh

HPT (1), Raipur

LPT, Dongargarh

LPT, Ratlam

LPT, Seoni

LPT, Shahdol

LPT, Sidhi

1	2
	LPT, Singrauli
	LPT, Ambikapur
	LPT, Kurasia
	LPT, Manindergarh
9. Maharashtra	LPT, Ahmednagar
	LPT, Achalpur
	LPT, Amravati
	LPT, Chandrapur
	LPT, Dhule
	LPT, Nandurbar
	LPT, Shahada
	LPT, Gadchiroli
	LPT, Jalgaon
	LPT, Amalner
	LPT, Chalisgaon
	LPT, Bhusawal
	LPT, Nanded
	LPT, Kinwat
	LPT, Diglur
	LPT, Manmad
	LPT, Nasik
	LPT, Malegaon
	HPT, Pune

1	2
10. Manipur	LPT, Yavatmal
	LPT, Pusad
	LPT, Ukhrul
	VLPT, Senapati
	VLPT, Tamenglong
	VLPT, Chandel
11. Orissa	LPT, Baleshwar
	LPT, Bhadrak
	LPT, Baliapal
	LPT, Phulbani
	LPT, Parlakhemundi
	LPT, Behrampur
	LPT, Bhanjanagar
	LPT, Keonjhar
	LPT, Anandpur
	LPT, Joda
	LPT, Koraput
	Transposer, Sunabeda
	LPT, Jeypore
	LPT, Baripada
	HPT (1), Sambalpur
	LPT, Bargarh
	LPT, Brajraj Nagar

1	2
	LPT, Rourkela
	LPT, Sundargarh
	LPT, Rayagada
12. Rajasthan	LPT, Banswara
	VLPT, Rawatbhatta
	LPT, Chittaurgarh
	LPT, Dungarpur
	LPT, Sirohi
	LPT, Udaipur
13. Sikkim	VLPT, Mangan
14. Tamil Nadu	LPT, Dharmapuri
	LPT, Vellore
	LPT, Thiruvannamalai
	LPT, Vaniyambadi
	LPT, Tirupattur
	LPT, Salem
	LPT, Tindivanam
	LPT, Villupuram
	LPT, Neyveli
	LPT, Cuddalore
	LPT, Tiruchirappalli
15. Tripura	Transposer, Bellonia
	HPT, Agartala

1	2
16. Uttar Pradesh	LPT, Lakhimpur
17. West Bengal	LPT, Shantiniketan
	HPT, Asansol
	LPT, Bardhaman
	HPT, Kurseong
	LPT, Darjeeling
	LPT, Kalimpong
	LPT, Alipurduar
	LPT, Malda
	LPT, Kharagpur
	LPT, Medinipur
	HPT, Murshidabad
	LPT, Balurghat
UNION TERRITORIES	
1. Andaman & Nicobar Islands	VLPT, Nancowry
	LPT, Car-Nicobar
2. Daman & Diu	LPT, Daman

[*English*]**Banks Demanding Collateral Security
from Loanees**

3890. SHRIMATI USHA SINHA: Will
the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the nationalised banks have
been instructed to give loans under self-
employment schemes without asking for
collateral security;

(b) whether the banks are demanding
collateral security from loanees and refusing

loans to those who do not give such security, particularly in North Bihar; and

(c) if so, the action proposed to be taken by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE): (a) to (c). Under the guidelines issued by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) relating to Self Employment Scheme for Educated Unemployed Youth (SEEU) and Self Employment Programme for Urban Poor (SEPUP), banks are not required to obtain margin money, collateral security and/or third party guarantee from the borrowers. RBI has reported that they are not aware of any specific case in which any bank has asked for collateral security from any borrowers under these self-employment schemes in Bihar.

Export Target for Engineering Goods

3891. SHRI PRATAPRAO B. BHOSALE: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have revised the export target for engineering goods during 1990-91; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND TOURISM (SHRI ARUN KUMAR NEHRU): (a) and (b). Export targets for 1990-91 have not yet been fixed.

[*Translation*]

Doordarshan Kendra in Palamau, Bihar

3892. SHRI JORAWAR RAM: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether the work on Doordarshan Kendra in district Palamau of Bihar has been

taken up; and

(b) if so, the time by which it is likely to be commissioned?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING AND MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI P. UPENDRA): (a) and (b). Yes, Sir. The work for construction of building and tower for the high power (10KW) TV transmitter and a Programme Generation Facility Centre at Daltonganj in Palamau district of Bihar has been taken up. As per the present indications, the project is expected to be completed in the later part of the current financial year, i.e., 1990-91.

[*English*]

Iron ore Deposits in Tamil Nadu

3893. SHRI E.S.M. PAKEER MOHMED: Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have found any new iron ore deposits in Tamil Nadu;

(b) if so, the percentage of iron contents in these deposits;

(c) whether Government propose to set up any project for commercial production of iron and steel from these deposits; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF ENERGY AND MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI ARIF MOHAMMAD KHAN): (a) No, Sir.

(b) to (d). Do not arise.

Expenditure on Development of Tourist Spots in Punjab and Himachal Pradesh

3894. SHRI KAMAL CHAUDHRY: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) the expenditure incurred during 1989-90 on the development of tourist spots in Punjab and Himachal Pradesh;

(b) the expenditure proposed to be incurred during 1990-91 on the account; and

(c) the places of pilgrimage in Punjab and Himachal Pradesh to be developed under this scheme during 1990-91?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND TOURISM (SHRI ARUN KUMAR NEHRU):

(a) The Central Department of Tourism have provided an amount of Rs. 14.29 lakhs as Central financial assistance for development of tourist spots in Punjab and Rs. 33.28 lakhs to Himachal Pradesh during the year 1989-90.

(b) and (c). The development of tourist places in primarily the responsibility of the State Governments. However, the Ministry of Tourism extends financial assistance to States/Union Territories for strengthening of tourist infrastructure for specific proposals based on their merits, availability of funds and inter-se priorities.

Settlement of Income Tax Cases

3895. SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a)	Principal Bench, New Delhi	:	788
(b)	Additional Bench, Bombay	:	409
(c)	Additional Bench, Madras	:	428
(d)	Additional Bench, Calcutta	:	200

1825

(c) Average annual expenditure incurred during the financial years 1986-87,

(a) the total number of cases pending before the Settlement Commissioners on all India basis for settlement/appeals etc., with regard to income tax arrears for more than Rs. 5 lakh;

(b) the number of cases pending for more than one year;

(c) the approximate annual expenditure incurred by Government on the Settlement Commissions and the annual amount of revenue collected through these Commissions; and

(d) the steps contemplated by Government to expedite settlement of the cases pending with the Settlement Commission?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE): (a) Since the record of Income-tax arrears is maintained by the Income-tax authorities, it is not possible to identify the cases having arrears of more than Rs. 5 lakhs pending for settlement. However, total number of the applications pending before different Benches of the Settlement Commission as on 1.9.1989 was 2168.

(b) Pendency of cases for over a year as on 1.9.1989 is as under:-

1987-88 and 1988-89 for all the Benches of the Commission was approximately Rs.

56,65,000. Since the taxes, in all cases disposed of by the Settlement Commission, are collected by the respective Assessing Officers, spread over throughout the country, information about the amount of revenue collected is not available.

(d) For expediting settlement of cases pending with the Settlement Commission, three additional Benches were set up at Calcutta, Bombay and Madras. The Bench at Bombay was created with effect from 4.12.1986 and the Benches at Calcutta and Madras with effect from 22.12.1987.

Tax on Income of Bus Organizers

3896. SHRI MADAN LAL KHURANA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the income earned from chartered buses by persons, who have entered into agreements with Bus owner to carry passengers from one point to another in Delhi is taken into account for taxation purposes; and

(b) if not, the steps proposed to be taken by Government in this direction?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE): (a) Income derived by persons who have entered into such agreements is chargeable to tax under the provisions of the Income-tax Act.

-(b) Does not arise.

[*Translation*]

Shifting of Income-Tax Office from Muzaffarpur to Patna

3897. SHRI DASAI CHOWDHARY: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is an Income Tax Office in Muzaffarpur, Bihar;

(b) whether the people of Vaishali and Sonpur, Bihar feel great difficulty to visit the Income Tax Office in Muzaffarpur as it is quite far off;

(c) if so, whether Government propose to attach these areas to Patna Income-tax Office which is quite close-by to Vaishali and Sonpur rather than Muzaffarpur; and

(d) if so, when?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Representations to this effect have been made to the concerned income-tax authorities at Patna.

(c) and (d). The Chief Commissioner of Income-tax, Patna has reported that the representations made are under active consideration and a decision in the matter will be taken shortly.

[*English*]

Hundred Percent Export Oriented Charge Chrome Unit

3898. SHRI GOVINDA CHANDRA MUNDA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Hundred Percent Export Oriented charge chrome Units, despite earning valuable foreign exchange, are incurring losses;

(b) if so, whether the units are not being provided with Cash Compensatory Support and the marketing assistance; and

(c) if so, the reasons therefor and action

taken/proposed to be taken by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND TOURISM (SHRI ARUN KUMAR NEHRU): (a) to (c). There are three 100% Export Oriented Units producing Charge Chrome. These units have represented to Government regarding low export realization and requested for a higher rate of Cash Compensatory Support. The grant of Cash Compensatory Support is based on the actual cost data furnished by the Industry. At present, Cash Compensatory Support at the rate of 10% is available on export of ferro alloys and 100% EOUs are eligible for Cash Compensatory Support at 50% of the applicable rate.

For the purposes of marketing assistance, export units are eligible for support from the Market Development Assistance Fund for undertaking various export promotional activities.

Raids on Leading Jewellers and Diamond Merchants in Delhi

3899. SHRI HET RAM: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether any raids by Customs/Income-tax authorities were conducted on leading jewellers/diamond merchants in Delhi during 1989-90;

(b) if so, the details of unaccounted gold, currency and diamonds recovered and the details of parties involved in irregularities of more than Rs. 5 lakhs; and

(c) the action taken by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE): (a) and (b). During 1989-90, Income-tax Department conducted searches in 5 cases of Jewellers in Delhi and unaccounted assets of the value of Rs. 60

lakhs (including cash, gold, silver and precious metals) were seized.

In the cases of M/s. Mehra Sons and M/s. Sriram Hariram, unaccounted jewellery of the value of more than Rs. 5 lakhs each was seized.

(c) Follow-up investigation and such other action as called for under the direct taxes enactment is taken.

Information about Customs raids is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Financial Assistance Provided by Trans-Yamuna (Delhi) Branches of SBI to Women Entrepreneurs

3900. SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of women entrepreneurs provided financial assistance by the trans-Yamuna(Delhi) branches of the State Bank of India under "Istri-Shakti Package Scheme" introduced by the Bank for providing financial assistance to women entrepreneurs;

(b) whether the applicants under the said scheme are required to furnish guarantees/collateral securities to secure amount upto Rs. 25,000/-;

(c) if so, the number of applications rejected by the above branches on this ground; and

(d) if not, the action proposed to be taken against the officers of the above branches for rejecting applications on this ground?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE): (a) to (d). The State Bank of India (SBI) has reported that 10

women entrepreneurs were provided financial assistance under the scheme by the said branches. The guarantees/collateral securities are not required except in respect of advances for allied agricultural activities beyond Rs. 10,000/-. The bank has also reported that no applications have been rejected on the aforesaid grounds.

Fund given by H. Z. L. to Schools

3901. SHRI HEMENDRA SINGH BANERA: Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Hindustan Zinc Ltd., (HZL) proposes to provide funds to Schools for Deaf and Dumb in Shilwara and Udaipur;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF ENERGY AND MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI ARIF MOHAMMAD KHAN): (a) and (b). Hindustan Zinc Limited proposes to provide funds to the Deaf and Dumb School, Udaipur to meet the balance expenditure not covered by aid from State/Central Governments subject to a limit of Rs. 1 lakh per year.

(c) No proposal has been received by the Company for granting aid to Deaf and Dumb School, Bhilwara

Parliament Session in South

3902. SHRI T. BASHEER: Will the Minister of PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that

there is a long standing demand to hold session of Parliament somewhere in South; and

(b) if so, the reaction of Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING AND MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI P. UPENDRA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) At present, the Government is not thinking of holding any Parliament Session outside Delhi.

Assistance given by IDBI and ICICI in Kerala

3903. SHRI T. BASHEER: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the amount of assistance given by the Industrial Development Bank of India (IDBI) and Industrial Credit and Investment Corporation of India (ICICI) in Kerala during 1987-88, 1988-89 and 1989-90;

(b) the projects from Kerala pending before these institutions for their consideration for 1990-91; and

(c) the action taken by these institutions for clearance of these projects?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE): (a) According to the information furnished by Industrial Development Bank of India (IDBI), the assistance sanctioned by IDBI and Industrial Credit and Investment Corporation of India Ltd. (ICICI) in Kerala during the last three years is given below:-

(Rs. in Crores)

April - March

<i>Name of the Institution</i>	<i>1987-88</i>	<i>1988-89</i>	<i>1989-90*</i> <i>(April-Dec.1989)</i>
IDBI Sanctions	128.94	172.74	100.50
ICICI Sanctions	13.27	7.70	3.63

*Data for 1989-90 are provisional.

(b) and (c). IDBI has reported that four applications are pending in its portfolio under Direct Finance Scheme from units in Kerala as on 29.3.1990. Of these, one is expected to be sanctioned shortly. The remaining three cases are only in the nature of enquiries. ICICI also had only one pending application in Kerala as on 28.2.1990.

Reform in Indian Succession Act

3904. SHRI P. C. THOMAS: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether during the recent visit of the Prime Minister to Kerala some organisations submitted to him a memorandum regarding the need to amend the Indian Succession Act to exclude Christians from the liability to obtain probate for Christian Wills as in the case of Hindus and other religions; and

(b) if so, the action taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF ENERGY AND MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI ARIF MOHAMMAD KHAN): (a) and (b). Yes Sir. As the policy of the Government in this regard has all along been not to effect any change in the personal laws of minority communities unless sufficient initiative therefrom comes from the communities themselves, efforts are being made to ascertain the

consensus or the majority view or the Christian community in the matter.

Television Relay Centre, Bhilwara

3905. SHRI HEMENDRA SINGH BANERA Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether a Television relay centre has been set up at Bhilwara;

(b) if so, whether the entire district of Bhilwara cannot be benefited by it due to its weak reception; and

(c) the measure Government propose to take to improve its transmission capacity?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING AND MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI P. UPENDRA): (a) Yes, Sir. A low power (100 W) TV transmitter has been functioning at Bhilwara since August, 1989.

(b) and (c) The low power TV transmitter at Bhilwara operating in VHF band provides service within a range of about 25 kms, including the areas receiving fringe service where satisfactory reception is possible with elevated antennae and/or boosters etc. subject to terrain conditions. TV service in

Bhilwara district is expected to improve with the commissioning of the high power (10 KW) TV transmitter during 1991-92 at Bundi. Further improvement of TV service in Bhilwara would depend upon availability of resources for the purpose in the future plans of TV expansion.

Loans Advanced under SEEUY in Uttar Pradesh

3906. SHRI C. M. NEGI: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the total amount of loans given under the Self employment to Educated Unemployed Youth Scheme (SEEUY) during 1986-87, 1987-88 and 1988-89 in Uttar Pradesh and particularly in the Garhwal

districts, district-wise and year-wise;

(b) whether any study has been made to assess the implementation of the Scheme in Garhwal region of Uttar Pradesh after its introduction and after the introduction of consolidated Jawahar Rozgar Yojna; and

(c) if so, the details thereof and the steps proposed to be taken to make the Scheme effective by providing loans to the youth in order to stimulate the economy of Garhwal region of Uttar Pradesh?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE): (a) The performance of all banks in Uttar Pradesh for the last three years under Self-Employment Scheme for Educated Unemployed Youth (SEEUY) is as under:-

(Rs. in crores)

Year	Physical Target	Loan Sanctioned	
		No.	Amount
1986-87	31,300	23197	50.02
1987-88	15,550	14102	31.67
1988-89	31,300	24373	53.41

The district-wise details, in the form desired, are not available under the present data reporting system.

(b) and (c). Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has further reported that they have not conducted any study to assess the implementation of the SEEUY Scheme in Garhwal region and the Scheme of Jawahar Rozgar Yojna does not involve Banks.

Cases Against Small Scale Industries Under Excise Act

3907. PROF. GOPALRAO MAYEKAR: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the number and details of cases against small scale industries for violation of the Excises Act noticed by Government

during the last one year;

(b) the action taken by Government in this regard; and

(c) the number of cases finally decided in favour of such industries?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE): (a) 1,522 cases involving Central Excise duty estimated at Rs. 3,122 lakhs have been registered during the calendar year 1989 all over India (excluding Central Excise Collectorate at Shilong) against units belonging to the small scale sector for violation of the provisions of the Central Excises and Salt Act, 1944 and the Rules made thereunder.

(b) Show cause notices have been issued in 1,460 cases out of (a) above;

(c) Out of the cases adjudicated, only 60 cases have been decided in favour of the assesses, so far.

[*Translation*]

Setting up of Doordarshan Relay Centre at Ichkelagaon, Jaspur District, Madhya Pradesh

3908. **SHRI NAND KUMAR SAI:** Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to set up a Doordarshan relay centre in tribal dominated area Ichkelagaon in Jaspur sub-division in Raigarh district of Madhya Pradesh; and

(b) if so, the time by which it is likely to be set up?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING AND MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI P. UPENDRA): (a) and (b). There is no such proposal under the consideration of Government at present. While it is the endeavour of the Government to extend TV service to the uncovered parts of the country as early as possible, this is essentially dependant upon the availability of adequate resources for this purpose under the future plans of TV expansion.

[*English*]

Performance of MITCO

3909. **SHRI A. K. ROY:**
SHRI R. L. P. VERMA:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) the turn-over, export profit and loss of the Mica Trading Company (MITCO) for the last three years, year-wise;

(b) internal consumption of mica during the above period;

(c) whether there has been a decline in the performance of MITCO; and

(c) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND TOURISM (SHRI ARUN KUMAR NEHRU): (a) Turnover, profit and loss of MITCO for the last three years are as under:

Value in Rs. lakhs

	1987-88	1988-89	1989-90 [prov.]
Sales turnover	2361.00	2540.12	3065.00
Net Loss	146.96	174.49	115.00

(b) The average consumption of mica scrap and mica flakes by MITCO during the last 3 years has been 600 to 700 tonnes per annum for production of mica paper, mica powder and fabricated mica

(c) and (d). Even though MITCO's performance during 1989-90 has improved over that in 1987-88 and 1988-89, MITCO has been suffering loss since 1987-88 primarily because the value added projects set up by MITCO are yet to achieve break-even level of production and sales.

Implementation of Insurance Scheme for Agricultural Labourers in Punjab

3910. SHRI KAMAL CHAUDHRY: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) when Union Government's insurance Scheme for the rural workers/agricultural labourers for free policy for any accidental death was made applicable to Punjab;

(b) whether the said scheme was extended to Punjab later than its extension to various other States, if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the number of beneficiaries who have received such insurance payment in Punjab particularly in Hoshiarpur district since its inception?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE): (a) and (b). The Union Government's Group Insurance Scheme for Landless Agricultural Labourers was made applicable to Punjab with effect from 15th August, 1987, the date of introduction of the Union Government's Scheme all over the country.

(c) 1377 families of landless labourers in Punjab, including Hoshiarpur District, have been benefitted so far since the implementation of the Scheme in the State.

Complaints in Selection of Serials and Films in Doordarshan

3911. SHRI A. ASOKARAJ: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have received any complaints of irregularities in the selection of serials and films in Doordarshan; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and action taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING AND MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI P. UPENDRA): (a) and (b). The Government have been receiving, from time to time, reports containing generalised allegations of irregularities etc. in the matter of selection of serials and films in Doordarshan. These complaints are mostly generalised in nature without being supported by any specifics. It is, therefore, not possible to take any concrete action on such complaints. However, as when such reports contain specific allegations which can be verified, the matter is duly looked into. It is the endeavour of the Government to remove all possible sources of malpractices by effecting procedural changes wherever required.

Mines Division

3912. SHRI GOVINDA CHANDRA MUNDA: Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal to separate Mines Division from steel plants;

(b) if so, whether Government propose to establish the Mines Division at Bhubaneswar with a regional office at Keonjhar; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF ENERGY AND
MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI ARIF
MOHAMMAD KHAN) (a) Yes, Sir

(b) No, Sir

(c) Does not arise

**Recruitment Rules of Indian Informa-
tion Service**

3913 SHRI GOVINDA CHANDRA
MUNDA Will the Minister of INFORMATION
AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state

(a) whether there is a provision in the
Recruitment Rules of the Indian Information
Service to include or exclude any posts from
outside into the Service,

(b) if so, how many times inclusions and
exclusions were made into the service under
this provision till now

(c) whether the Service Personnel have
sought to abolish this provision and the
Ministry had agreed to it and

(d) if so, the action taken by Govern-
ment so far?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION
AND BROADCASTING AND MINISTER OF
PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI P
UPENDRA) (a) and (b) A provision exists
in the Central Information Service Rules to
include or exclude posts into/from the Cen-
tral Information Service. It has been invoked
29 times since the amendment of the CIS
Rules in 1967

(c) and (d) The Ministry has not agreed
to the demand of the CIS personnel for
abolition of the above said provision

[Translation]

**Land Dispute Cases of Scheduled
Castes and Scheduled Tribes pending
in High Courts**

3914 SHRI GOPAL PACHERWAL
Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be
pleased to state

(a) the State-wise details of the land
dispute cases pertaining to Scheduled Castes
and Scheduled Tribes pending in High Courts
at present, and

(b) the details of the steps being taken
by Government to ensure cheap and speedy
justice to the Scheduled Castes and Sched-
uled Tribes people?

THE MINISTER OF ENERGY AND
MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI ARIF
MOHAMMAD KHAN) (a) No such data is
available, as the High Courts do not maintain
any separate register with regard to the
cases of Scheduled Castes/Scheduled
Tribes pending in High Courts under various
categories

(b) Besides increasing the Judge
strength of High Courts various steps like
grouping of cases involving common ques-
tion of law, constitution of special benches,
have been taken by the High Courts, for
speedy disposal of all types of cases. The
Government have also constituted a Com-
mittee of three Chief Justices of High Courts
to make an indepth study of problem of
arrears in High Courts and Subordinate
Courts and to suggest remedial measures.
The Government have recently enacted 'The
Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes
(Prevention of Atrocities) Act, 1989 which
came into force on 30.1.1990 to take care
inter alia, of all offences relating to land and
cultivation of land and any atrocity of this
nature committed on a member of Sched-

uled Caste or Scheduled Tribe. The Act provides for setting up of Special Courts for speedy trial of offences under the Act.

[English]

Reports of 12th Law Commission

3915 CH. JAGDEEP DHANKHAR: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) the number and subjects of Reports submitted by the 12th Law Commission; and

(b) the action taken by Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF ENERGY AND MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI ARIF MOHAMMAD KHAN): (a) The 12th Law Commission submitted the following Reports:—

<i>Report No</i>	<i>Subject matter of the Report</i>
132	Need for amendment of the provisions of Chapter IX of the Code of Criminal Procedure, 1973 in order to ameliorate the hardship and mitigate the distress of neglected women, children and parents
133	Removal of discrimination against women in matters relating to guardianship and custody of minor children and elaboration of the welfare principle
134	Removing certain deficiencies in certain provisions of the workmen's compensation Act, 1923
135	Women in custody
136	Conflicts in High Court decisions in Central laws—How to fore-close and how to resolve

(b) The 132nd, 133rd and 134th Reports have been laid on the Table of both Houses of Parliament

Inclusion of Pepper Under Spices Act of 1985

3916 SHRI PALAI K M MATHEW: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state

(a) whether there is any proposal to

bring Pepper within the ambit of the Spices Act of 1985,

(b) if so, the details thereof, and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND TOURISM (SHRI ARUN KUMAR NEHRU) (a) to (c). Reference presumably is to the Spices Board Act, 1986. Export of pepper is already within the ambit of that Act.

12.00 hrs.

OBITUARY REFERENCES

[English]

MR SPEAKER Hon ble Members it is with deep regret that I have to inform the House of the sad demise of Sarvashri B T Ranadive and R Mohanrangam

A veteran freedom fighter and outstanding Marxist theoretician Shri Ranadive Served on several trade union organisations in various capacities He was President of the Centre of Indian Trade Unions since its inception in 1970

Shri Ranadive Plunged into freedom struggle and communist movement at an early age and suffered imprisonment several times

A prolific writer, he authored a number of books mainly on political subjects

Shri Ranadive passed away at the Tata Memorial Hospital in Bombay early this morning after a brief illness at the age of 85

Shri Mohanrangam represented Chengalpattu constituency of Tamil Nadu during Sixth Lok Sabha, i.e., from 1977 to 1979 Later, he was elected to the Rajya Sabha in June 1980 and continued to be its member till September, 1982 He was re-elected to that House in February 1983

A prominent political worker, Shri Mohanrangam was a member of the Senate of the University of Madras during 1973-76 An ardent champion of the poor and downtrodden Shri Mohanrangam worked ceaselessly for Harijan welfare Shri Mohanrangam took keen interest in parliamentary work and made significant contribution thereto He was also a Member of the Privileges Committee of this House

Shri Mohanrangam passed away yesterday at Madras at the age of 56

We deeply mourn the loss of these friends and I am sure the House will join me in conveying our condolences to the bereaved families

The House may stand in silence for a short while to express its sorrow

The members then stood in silence for a short while

12.03 hrs

RE ALLEGED TAPPING OF TELEPHONES AND BUGGING OF PREMISES OF POLITICIANS

(Interruptions)

[Translation]

MR SPEAKER I am unable to hear anything Whom should I listen to?

(Interruptions)

MR SPEAKER It is difficult for me to hear you

(Interruptions)

[English]

MR SPEAKER I cannot hear anybody Please sit down

(Interruptions)

MR SPEAKER I am not able to hear you

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: I am sorry, I want to give a patient hearing, but you are not allowing me to hear you. Please take your seats. Yes, Mr. Sathe.

(Interruptions)

[*Translation*]

MR. SPEAKER: I will listen to each one of you provided you cooperate. This is not the way.

(Interruptions)

[*English*]

MR. SPEAKER: Let me hear the Opposition first.

(Interruptions)

SHRI VASANT SATHE (Wardha) : Sir I am sure you and the entire House would be very seriously concerned with the news that has appeared today that telephones are not only being tapped, but the houses are being bugged by this Government.....

(Interruptions)

You will recall, Sir, that this Government and the people sitting on the ruling benches were very seriously concerned about the democratic process being established in this country and were opposed to all these methods when they were in Opposition. We want to have, Sir, a statement of facts from the Home Minister and from the Minister for Telecommunications about the list of names and all the facts about those 27 persons, which a very senior member of the Janata Dal himself has disclosed to the Press.

(Interruptions)

[*Translation*]

MR. SPEAKER: What do you want to

say?

SHRI VASANT SATHE : I want to say that the House cannot function unless we know the truth about the tapping of our telephones.

[*English*]

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : I have allowed Mr. Sathe.

[*Translation*]

MR. SPEAKER : Let him speak, why are you making noise.

[*English*]

SHRI VASANT SATHE : I have no doubt, Sir, you will appreciate that for doing this telephone tapping, a Chief Minister had to resign. That Chief Minister is promoted here to the Planning Commission. Now, this Government also, at the Centre, is indulging in this nefarious, reprehensible and anti-democratic activity....*(Interruptions)*

[*Translation*]

MR. SPEAKER : Have you given a notice in this regard?

SHRI VASANT SATHE : Yes, I have. I beg your pardon, but unless we know the facts regarding this episode including all the 27 names, we shall not let the House proceed further.

[*English*]

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM (Sivaganga) : Sir, I wish to supplement what Mr. Sathe has said. This is what has appeared. It says, "you shut off the tape recorder, I will tell you something." *(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : Mr. Chidambaram, do not read anything. You mention your point in one minute.

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM : Sir, it says,

"you shut off the tape recorder. I will tell you something. You talk of this highly moral value-based Government. Do you know they have tapped all my phones. Not just that, they have bugged even the rooms. I have checked it out with the de-bugger "

(Interruptions)

This is the statement of a senior leader of the Janata Dal. You should call the Home Minister. *(Interruptions)*

Please see this.....*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : Please go back to your seat.

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM : Let the Home Minister come, let the Minister for Telecommunications come. *(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : I am to hear the Government on this issue.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : You have raised the issue. Please sit down.

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM : Where is the Prime Minister?

MR. SPEAKER : Do you want to hear the Minister or not?

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM : Only the Home Minister can answer. No body else can answer. Where is the Home Minister? *(Interruptions)*

SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY (Mangalore) : It is not a question between the Government and one M.P. It is a question of fundamental right of the citizen to privacy of communication. When the telephone is tapped, when there is bugging of the residence, it is a nefarious act of the Government. It is a very serious matter. Where is the Prime Minister? *(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER : Please be seated.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Please sit down, I have received notices regarding the issue raised by Shri Sathe. I have received notice for Privilege Motion, Calling Attention as well as a notice under Rule 193. These notices are under consideration and I shall let you know about them.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Now papers to be laid. Shri Arun Kumar Nehru.

12.12 hrs.

PAPERS LAID ON THE TABLE

Review on the working of and Annual Report of Export Credit Guarantee Corporation of India Ltd. Bombay for 1988-89

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND TOURISM (SHRI ARUN KUMAR NEHRU) : I beg to lay on the Table—

A copy each of the following papers (Hindi and English versions) under sub-section (1) of section 619A of the Companies Act, 1956 :—

- (i) Review by the Government on the working of the Export Credit Guarantee Corporation of India Limited, Bombay, for the year 1988-89.

RE: ALLEGED TAPPING OF TELEPHONES AND BUGGING OF PREMISES OF POLITICIANS—*CONTD.*

[*English*]

- (ii) Annual Report of the Export Credit Guarantee Corporation of India Limited, Bombay, for the year 1988-89 along with Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.[Placed in Library See No. LT. 620/90]

(*Interruptions*)

SHRIM.J.AKBAR (Kishanganj) : Where is the Home Minister?

Where is the Prime Minister?

(*Interruptions*)

Detailed Demand for Grants of Ministry of Parliamentary Affairs for 1990-91

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING AND MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI P. UPENDRA) : I beg to lay on the Table—

SHRIVASANT SATHE (Wardha) : They talk of value based politics but this is what they are doing.

(*Interruptions*)

A copy of the Detailed Demands for Grants (Hindi and English versions) of the Ministry of Parliamentary Affairs for 1990-91. [Placed in Library See No. LT. 621/90]

SHRI P.R. KUMARAMANGALAM (Salem) : We want to hear the Home Minister. Where is the Home Minister?

PROF. P.J. KURIEN (Mavelikara) : We want to hear the Home Minister on this issue.

12.12-1/2 hrs.

(*Interruptions*)

ASSENT TO BILLS

Your telephone is also tapped.

[*English*]

(*Interruptions*)

SECRETARY-GENERAL : Sir, I beg to lay on the Table the following two Bills passed by the Houses of Parliament during the current session and assented to since a report was last made to the House on the 30th March, 1990 :—

[*Translation*]

SHRI VASANT SATHE : Please call the Home Minister. (*Interruptions*) Mr. Speaker, Sir even your telephone calls are being tapped. They will not spare you even.

- (1) The Appropriation (Vote on Account) Bill, 1990

(*Interruptions*)

- (2) The Appropriation Bill, 1990.

SHRI R.N. RAKESH (Chail) : The Prime Minister should resign.

(*Interruptions*)

[*English*]

SHRI VASANT SATHE : We want to know who are those buggers who are bugging our homes. (*Interruptions*) We want the Prime Minister to come. (*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER : Nothing will go on record.

(*Interruptions*)*

MR. SPEAKER : They are not allowing any discussion. They do not want the House to function.

(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER : Please take your seats.

(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER : The House stands adjourned to meet at 3 P.M.

12.25 hrs.

The Lok Sabha then adjourned till Fifteen of the Clock

15.00 hrs.

The Lok Sabha re-assembled at Fifteen of the Clock

[MR. SPEAKER *in the Chair*]

RE: ALLEGED TAPPING OF TELEPHONES AND BUGGING OF PREMISES OF POLITICIANS

[*Translation*]

SHRIR.N. RAKESH (Chail) : Shri Hegde

had to resign on the issue of telephone tapping. Therefore, Shri V.P.Singh should also resign. This is a very serious matter.

(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER : You speak one by one.

(*Interruptions*)

[*English*]

SHRI DINESH SINGH (Pratapgarh) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, you are aware of the gravity of the situation. It is not relevant whether Mr. Chandra Shekhar has made any statement or not. To my mind, that is a secondary issue. The issue is whether the Government is tapping the telephones of politicians or not. And our request is that the Government should make a statement saying whether they are tapping these telephones and whose telephones they are tapping, and whether they are bugging politicians' houses or not. You know that on this very issue, a State Government fell because it was felt that this was the wrong practice. Therefore, we hope that the Government will take it in all the seriousness with which we are raising this issue. It is fortunate that a statement has been made by an hon. Member of Parliament. But that is not our basis. Our basis is whether the Government is doing this and if it is doing this, then, it must explain why the telephones are being tapped and why the houses are being bugged. (*Interruptions*)

SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO (Mormugao) : I have given a notice of breach of privilege against the Home Minister. (*Interruptions*)

[*Translation*]

MR. SPEAKER : I have received your privilege notice.

(Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO : I have given the notice because it is the intelligence agencies who have interfered with the freedom of communication of Members of Parliament. Therefore, they have committed a breach of privilege.....(Interruptions) I make two demands. Firstly, that the Government, in keeping with the previous precedents, should lay on the Table of the House the names of all the Members of Parliament and other political leaders whose phones are tapped. Secondly, in line with the leader of the Janata Party, the Chief Minister Mr. Rama Krishna Hegde who unilaterally, on his own, tendered his resignation from his office, the Home Minister should also resign on this issue of breach of privilege. (Interruptions)

SHRI NIRMAL KANTI CHATTERJEE (Dumdum) : If what has come out in the papers is true, there is no doubt that it is something which is regrettable and unpardonable. There are no two opinions that such an act should be condemned. And it is unfortunate that even after 100 days of the new Government, they have not been able to discontinue such practices which were there.

We want a statement from the Government as to what are the names under such lists and since when this tapping is going on and why it is continuing. All this information should be laid before the House. (Interruptions)

SHRI SAMARENDRA KUNDU (Balasore) : I entirely agree with the proposition that this is a very important matter. It not only concerns the Opposition members, now it concerns all of us. But at the same time with great dismay I would like to submit that I do not approve of the conduct of the Opposition.....(Interruptions)..... During the

Congress (I) regime, Ministers' telephones were bugged. Even their RAX phones were bugged. (Interruptions)

It is a tragedy in our political life that black cannot change its hue, coal cannot change its hue. They would not learn any lesson from history. They should not utilise this forum to brow-beat you Sir. When you had already asked the Minister Shri Upendra to answer, they did not allow him to speak. They should refrain from taking political mileage from such things. If the telephone of Shri Chandra Shekhar is being tapped, I am the first man to ask the Government to make a full enquiry into it.

MR. SPEAKER : I think the House will agree that the Minister should make a statement now.

(Interruptions)

15.07 hrs.

STATEMENT BY MINISTER

Alleged tapping of Telephones and Bugging of premises of Politicians

[English]

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING AND MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI P. UPENDRA): Some hon. Members have referred in the House this morning to the news report in a section of the Press that Shri Chandra Shekhar, an hon. Member of the House, as alleged in an interview to the Illustrated Weekly of India that his telephones are being tapped as well as the phones of 27 politicians. The telephonic communications of Shri Chandra Shekhar or any other political leader are not being intercepted (Interruptions)

[Sh. P. Upendra]

Sir I repeat, the telephonic communications of Shri Chandra Shekhar or any other political leader are not being intercepted. Neither are the premises of Shri Chandra Shekhar or any other political leader being bugged. However, I may point out that under special circumstances telephone interceptions have been conducted under the provisions of Section 5(2) of the Indian Telegraph Act.

Under the provisions of this Section, the Central Government have authorised the Director, Intelligence Bureau to exercise this power. A number of safeguards have been provided to ensure that this power is not misused and is exercised for the purpose for which it is intended.

SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO (Mormugao) : What is the purpose?

SHRI P. UPENDRA : You know it better. You were in the Government for 40 years. Don't you know that?

A CBI enquiry has been ordered by the Prime Minister to enquire into all these allegations. (Interruptions) Let me complete first. A CBI enquiry has been ordered by the Prime Minister to enquire into all these allegations. And also into earlier activities that may have been conducted in this connection. (Interruptions)

SHRI VASANT SATHE (Wardha) : This will not do. (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Sir, it was told, in your Chamber by hon. Shri Upendra that.....(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI NATHU SINGH (Dausa) : Are you

going to allow a discussion on it? (Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI VASANT SATHE: The understanding was, Mr. Upendra has given a word, that he would verify—Mr. Kundu was also there—from hon. Shri Chandra Shekhar, leader of the Janata Dal, whether the statement alleged to have been made by him is correct or not. This is what he has said. Hon. Shri Chandra Shekhar was here in the Central Hall in the afternoon for more than an hour. Sir, I would like to know from Shri Upendra whether he has enquired from hon. Shri Chandra Shekhar about the veracity. (Interruptions) It will not do if Shri Upendra makes a statement that Mr. Chandra Shekhar's telephone was not tapped. So far as the allegation made by Shri Chandra Shekhar is concerned, the only person who could contradict it is Mr. Chandra Shekhar himself. (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Please take your seats. Let me hear Shri Basudeb Acharia.

(Interruptions)

SHRI NATHU SINGH : Sir, are you going to allow a discussion on this?

(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Yes, Mr. Acharia.

[Translation]

SHRI K. MANVENDRA SINGH (Mathura) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to tell all those who are taking initiative here today that it were they who tapped the telephone of the then President.....(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : The Minister has already made a statement. I have called Mr. Acharia.

(Interruptions)

SHRI BASUDEB ACHARIA (Bankura) : Sir, a few days back, Mr. Janardhana Poojary and Mr. Ajit Panja, on the basis of a report in the Birlas' newspaper, had made a false allegation in this House that Communist Party of India (Marxist) amassed Rs. 200 crore. (Interruptions) The Chief Minister of West Bengal wrote to Finance Minister, Prof. Madhu Dandavate. Prof. Dandavate had categorically denied that there was any such report from the Intelligence Department. (Interruptions) Sir, I demand that the allegation made by Mr. Janardhana Poojary and Mr. Ajit Panja should be withdrawn.

MR. SPEAKER : Mr. Bhagat.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Please take your seat.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : I have called Mr. Bhagat. Please sit down, Mr. Banatwalla.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Yes, Mr. Bhagat.

SHRI H.K.L. BHAGAT (East Delhi) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I am grateful to you. (Interruptions) Mr. Dinesh Singh put a very straightforward question about this, namely, irrespective of what Mr. Chandra Shekhar said or not said, whether the telephones are being tapped or not.

Without denying that, he has made an

admission a confession that under certain provisions of the law, a number of telephones have been intercepted. I would like to know whether he would tell us those names and place them on the Table of the House or not.....(Interruptions).....Since all of you also have asked for them, will he place them on the Table of the House? (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Mr. Vijay Kumar Malhotra.

(Interruptions)

SHRI VASANT SATHE : You should have had a conversation with Mr. Chandra Shekhar. You have failed to do that. So, we want a discussion under Rule 193 on Monday.

MR. SPEAKER: You give a notice on this matter under Rule 193. I will place it before the Business Advisory Committee and a decision will be taken.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Please give the notice under Rule 193. No further discussion on this. Now, let me proceed with the next item on the agenda.

(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA (Delhi Sadar) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I think, the issue that has been raised is very serious one and you allowed many hon. Members from the Congress Party to speak on it. But when you had allowed them it was not appropriate to allow only those to speak, who threatened to stall the proceedings of the House. This is a very serious matter. Therefore, I would like to say that it is wrong and shameful to tap the telephones of political

[Sh. Vijay Kumar Malhotra]

people. This should not happen. The Government should ensure that the telephones of people in political, social and cultural fields are not tapped. There is no sense in tapping the telephones of persons other than those of the terrorists and anti-national elements. If you want to order a C.B.I. enquiry into it, the case of tapping of telephones of Giani Zail Singh, when he was President of India and the tapping of telephones of the entire Opposition, may also be included in the enquiry and the same punishment should be meted out to the offenders as will be given to those who tapped the telephones without permission in the present case.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to say that it is today that they have recalled these democratic institutions.....(*Interruptions*)

They had forgotten them when Shri Chandra Shekhar was imprisoned during Emergency without any charge.....(*Interruptions*)

Mr. Speaker, Sir, not only mine but the mail of the whole opposition was being censored till three months back. We wish the National Front Government not to repeat the mistakes of the Congress regime. This Government should ensure that neither the telephones of a political person should be tapped nor their mail censored.

[*English*]

SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA (Midnapore) : Not much purpose will be served by all this. I only want to point out that all of us in this House, irrespective of which side we are sitting, are agitated. This is an extremely serious matter and we will all demand a thorough inquiry since this matter has now been brought into limelight by the statement of Mr. Chandra Shekhar outside the House. Since this matter has come to the notice of

the entire country, there must be a thorough probe into it and the Government, after ascertaining the full facts, will certainly come before the House—I am sure—and make a full statement. I fully agree with my friend, Raja Dinesh Singh who said that their main issue is not what Mr. Chandra Shekhar may or may not have said but the main issue is whether such tapping and bugging is going on or not.

But that is not Mr. Sathe's point.

SHRI VASANT SATHE : That is my point.....(*Interruptions*)

SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA : No, Shri Sathe's point is that you must verify whether Shri Chandra Shekhar.....(*Interruptions*) You have spoken twenty times, I have not interrupted you. Let my Congress friends make up their mind. the issues raised by Raja Dinesh Singh is perfectly correct in my opinion.....(*Interruptions*) and Shri Sathe's insistence that the main thing is to verify from Shri Chandra Shekhar whether he has said that or not is irrelevant.....(*Interruptions*) You should have consulted before you came here.....(*Interruptions*)

SHRI VASANT SATHE : Do not advise us what we should do. We know what we should do.....(*Interruptions*)

SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA : Sometimes you should take some advice also. Do not get angry.....(*Interruptions*)

I am not interested in what went on in Speaker's chamber. You are referring to something that happened there.....(*Interruptions*)

SHRI VASANT SATHE : It is immaterial whether Shri Chandra Shekhar said that or not.....(*Interruptions*). We want the names; and we want the facts. That is what I said this morning also.....(*Interruptions*)

SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA : I want to know what are the grounds for Shri Sathe to assume that Shri Upendra has made this statement on behalf of the Government without verifying any facts. How does he know that? He mentioned about some agreement for verification. How does he know that he has made this statement without any verification?.....(*Interruptions*) You can make fifty statements outside the House.....(*Interruptions*)

SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY (Mangalore) : We want a Parliamentary Committee to go into this.....(*Interruptions*)

SHRI P. UPENDRA : I do not know whether hon. Shri Indrajit Gupta was there when I made the statement. I categorically said that no telephone of any political leader is being tapped. I made it very clear.

SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA : You said that after verifying the facts.

SHRI P. UPENDRA : I also want to add that this Government recognizes the sanctity of freedom of the citizens and their right to privacy and does not believe in resorting to illegal activities. At the same time, we also attach the utmost importance to the privileges of the hon. Members of Parliament as well as the legislators. I have made it very clear.....(*Interruptions*)

As regards statement of Shri Chandra Shekhar, CBI enquiry has been ordered.....(*Interruptions*)

SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO : We want an independent enquiry by Parliament, not by CBI.....(*Interruptions*)

SHRI P. UPENDRA : Let me complete. Please sit down. (*Interruptions*)

Sir, a CBI Inquiry has been ordered and the inquiry cannot be conducted without the

statement of Shri Chandra Shekhar. CBI will definitely contact Shri Chandra Shekhar and take his statement. And what I talked to one of our respected leader of National Front, I am not obliged to tell them. (*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Dinesh Singh, I think you will not be intruding upon the time allotted for the Private Members' Business. It is already 3.30 Let us proceed with the Private Member's Business.

(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER : We are taking up Private Members' Business. Please take your seat.

15.31 hrs.

RESOLUTION RE: POLL REFORMS—
 CONTD.

[*English*]

MR. SPEAKER : Now, we will take up further discussion of the following Resolution moved by Shri L.K. Advani on the 29th December, 1989 :

"This House is of opinion that against the background of the Ninth General Elections, poll reforms should be urgently undertaken, more particularly to curb the influence of money-power and muscle power, and to ensure that future elections held in this largest democracy of th world are completely free and fair."

Shri Mandhata Singh, please resume your speech.

SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV (Silchar) : Sir, kindly tell us whether after the Private Members' Business you will be taking up 193 or not.

THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING AND MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI P UPENDRA) Sir, this discussion has already been listed in the Agenda. If hon. Members want to have this discussion, they can have after the Private Members' Business is over. I don't know whether they want to have discussion under Rule 193 or they want to postpone it.

[*Translation*]

SHRI NATHU SINGH Mr. Speaker, Sir, I want that discussion under Rule 193 on an important issue like Assam, for which I have given notice, should be taken up on Monday instead of today.

[*English*]

SHRI P UPENDRA Sir, I cannot assure that we will take it up on Monday. It will be decided by the Business Advisory Committee. (*Interruptions*)

[*Translation*]

MR SPEAKER We shall discuss it in the BAC. If you all agree, it can be postponed.

[*English*]

PROF SAIFUDDIN SOZ (Baramulla) Sir, why don't you listen to my point of order?

MR SPEAKER No, there is no point of order.

SHRI DINESH SINGH (Pratapgarh) Sir, there is only one point which I want to make. We will not agree for a CBI Inquiry because it is one police man inquiring another police man. It should be either a Parliamentary Inquiry or a judicial inquiry. It is not enough to have a CBI Inquiry.

PROF SAIFUDDIN SOZ Sir, I am on a point of order.

[*Translation*]

MR SPEAKER Shri Mandhata Singh is speaking now. Which point of order are you talking about?

PROF SAIF-UD-DIN SOZ I have two points of order.

(*Interruptions*)

[*English*]

Sir, I have two points of order. One is about the bugging and tapping of telephone. It is a welcome gesture by the Prime Minister to have ordered a CBI Inquiry into it. (*Interruptions*)

[*Translation*]

MR SPEAKER Soz Sahib, you are such a knowledgeable person.

(*Interruptions*)

[*English*]

MR SPEAKER There is no point of order. Please allow Shri Singh to resume his speech.

[*Translation*]

PROF SAIF-UD-DIN SOZ I am on a point of order.

(*Interruptions*)

MR SPEAKER I have heard you. Please sit down.

[*English*]

I have ruled out your point of order. There is no point of order.

15.34 hrs.

[DR. THAMBI DURAI *in the Chair*]

SHRI NATHU SINGH: What about matters under rule 377?

MR. CHAIRMAN : Let me inform you about the matters under rule 377.

Now, we are taking up Private Members' Bill. The time is meant for Private Members' Bill and therefore we cannot encroach upon this time. If you are so particular about the matters under rule 377, that we can take up after 6 o'clock only. Before that, we cannot take up. If you are not so particular about it, then it will come only on Monday.

SHRI MANDHATA SINGH (Lucknow) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, I have risen to resume a discussion on the Electoral Reforms which was started the other day. And before going further, I would like to recapitulate what I had said a fortnight ago.

After Mr. Advani had moved his Resolution, I had submitted that we devote our attention to the Electoral Reforms which have apparently become very necessary. The unruly scenes which we have been witnessing in this House since this morning, it is probably the defect in our Electoral system that the country sends to this august House, people who do not even want to maintain the elementary decency and decorum that is necessary to run the proceedings of the House. Who preferred to defy the Chair? Who preferred to interrupt Members who are on their legs? Therefore, without casting any aspersions on anybody, I would resume the thread of my discussion.

I had said the other day that we cannot think of basic Electoral Reforms unless we concentrate from the very beginning of the process. The process of election is based

primarily on the Voters' List that is prepared by the *Lekh Pals* or the small functionaries. Throughout the country, our sad experience has been that there is large scale bungling not only in the preparation of electoral rolls but also in their Protection. As I said the other day, I have been myself a victim in the last Lok Sabha Election where four lakh voters in my Lucknow Parliamentary Constituency—the names of four lakh voters—I prefer to call it, kidnapped from the Voters' List. Therefore, any Electoral Reforms which can be seriously thought of must primarily concentrate itself on the fool proof preparation of the electoral rolls and their protection till the day of polling. The other point that I tried to make—that is a very important point—out is that everyday, every now and then, we have to go in for elections, sometimes for the local bodies and sometimes for the State Assemblies and for Parliament also and therefore, I beg to suggest and seriously suggest that an independent electoral machinery with Election Commission at the top and down to the district level or the block level or whatever is thought to be necessary has to be built up. I again underline that this permanent electoral machinery should be entrusted with the task of not only preparing the electoral rolls and putting it but should also conduct the elections according to the norms prescribed under the People's Representation Act. What I mean is that for five years, a District Magistrate or a Police official functions under a Government, and when the notification is issued, that same person is again re-designated Returning Officer of the constituency. And as the Returning Officer, the Government has always been pleading that he is functioning as an autonomous entity, and that Government has no control over him—while the facts belie these declarations. One-thousand-and-one examples can be quoted where the district administration, the so-called Returning Officers have been pressurized, the Police machinery has been misused, for booth-capturing and other malpractices.

Therefore, the second point that I wanted to underline was that there should be a permanent, independent electoral machin-

[Sh. Mandhata Singh]

ery from top to bottom, which should function round the year, all the five years—because every now and then we are called upon to hold elections.

The third point that I emphasized the other day was that at the time of making nominations to the different elections to Assemblies and Parliament, we have to swear by the oath which clearly lays down that we believe in the three ideals enshrined in our Constitution, viz. democracy, secularism and socialism. I want to underline the middle word 'secularism'. Today, before the Returning Officer we swear by secularism in the forenoon; and in the afternoon the same day or the next morning we start pouring out venom, we start pouring out communal propaganda and communal poison, which vitiates the entire atmosphere. In this connection, I beg to suggest that if people are found violating this principle of secularism in their election propaganda and resorting to caste or communal propaganda, then the People's Representation Act should be suitably amended to debar the person concerned, with immediate effect. We should not wait for the affected person to go to the High Court with an election petition, and then on to the Supreme Court—by that time the entire five-year period of the six-year period as in the case of the Upper Houses lapses, and the whole thing is bogged down in legal wrangling. So, that is something very serious which I am suggesting. I hope the hon. Members listening to me will pay due attention to this suggestion, viz. that those who violate the oath taken by them before the Returning Officers should be debarred from contesting the election with immediate effect, meaning thereby that they should not be allowed to go the polls even during the campaign period.

There is a lot of talk about eliminating money and muscle power in our elections. I will come to muscle power later. First, I want to place my views regarding money power. The vulgar display, as the Finance Minister used the phrase in his Budget speech, of

wealth is not made only on ceremonial occasions like marriages and others, which the Finance Minister proposes to deal harshly with.

Vulgar display of wealth is also made during the election. Therefore, I have a very concrete suggestion to offer which I hope all the hon. members will consider seriously. My suggestion is that every constituency in the country, whether it is an Assembly constituency or a parliamentary constituency, should be divided into certain zones; it can be done in consultation with all the contesting candidates or all the important recognised political parties. I have no objection to that; that is a part of the democratic process. If the entire constituency is divided into certain zones in each zone the Returning Officer is called upon to organise joint public meeting invite all the candidates in the field to address the people from the same platform and educate the people on their respective election manifestos, it will serve the purpose.

PROF. N.G. RANGA (Guntur): You can do it here.

SHRI MANDHATA SINGH: We have been doing here since this morning. That is our election manifesto. It is for this purpose that the people have sent us here to waste the whole day. A matter which could have been finished within a couple of minutes was hanged on till the afternoon; and it is going to be 4 O'clock. I was respectfully making my submission to the senior most member of the House, Prof. N.G. Ranga. I hope he will excuse me for saying this. So, what I aim at is that money power can be eliminated first by dividing a constituency into several zones. Convenient places can be selected and joint public meeting can be and should be addressed by all the contesting candidates; that is a way of conveying a candidate's message to the electorates.

In America, all of us know, the entire country elects the President merely by a debate on the T.V. We are not a prosperous country. Every person does not have a T.V.

Otherwise, I would have gone in for that suggestion also. But we are in the habit of holding rallies, big meetings to demonstrate our strength. We are hiring people to attend our rallies that have become part and parcel, an integral part and parcel of our political culture most unfortunately. We call it a State funding. If somebody asks me who will organise meetings, who will foot bills for the loudspeaker and the public meetings arrangement, I make bold to say that if we think of going in for what is called a State funding of elections, that will not involve crores of rupees. Each District Magistrate or the Returning Officer can arrange for this; and if necessary, the concerned government may sanction the necessary amount. The other side is that most of our people are illiterate. Therefore, the symbol business forms a very important part. I propose that symbols can be displayed, should be displayed, should be printed in sufficient numbers and distributed in all sectors of a constituency, all *mohallas*, all villages where the people may get acquainted with the political parties. If they want to vote for the Congress, they have to put the stamp on the hand symbol; if they want to vote for the Janata Dal, they have to put the stamp on the charkha symbol. That can also go to the State funding.

My last point is regarding the muscle power. That is a sad story. That is the saddest part of the story of our political decline, decline in the political morality of this country. We have been resorting to it. Almost all the political parties have been resorting to it. I do not want to name anybody or any party in particular. Certain figures have come out that in some Assembly, more than 300 members are supposed to be having criminal record. So, merely by a resolution of this House, merely by enacting certain laws, adding certain Clauses in the People's Representation Act, this evil cannot be eliminated. For eliminating the muscle power, is is most necessary that all major political parties should rise to the occasion. It is a clear challenge to the leadership qualities, to the political morality of this country. And we should be careful; the major political parties and their leadership should be careful and to

take serious note of these developments. Otherwise, the entire electoral process will go into shambles. It is going into shambles and we are seeing unruly elements coming out everywhere on all occasions.

With these words, I support the Motion moved in this House by Mr. L.K. Advani and request the Government to consider his suggestion very seriously and come forward to this House with an adequate legislation so that we might be able to hold free and fair elections in future.

Thank you for bearing with me for about twenty minutes. I am thankful to the Members who have listened to me with patience.

[Translation]

SHRI MITRA SEN YADAV (Faizabad):
Mr. Chairman, Sir, I am grateful to you for providing me time to participate in this debate.

Sir, our parliament is an illustration of democracy in the world. We are today discussing as to how democracy and its foundation could be strengthened and how inherent shortcomings in the constitution of parliament could be removed. The issue of bringing about reforms in the electoral system is very important and serious one. While considering it, 3-4 points need to be kept in mind so that the electoral system would be reformed.

Firstly, the Election Commission needs to be completely re-structured. The system cannot be reformed until and unless an independent Election Commission is constituted and bunglings in the voters list prepared by primary school teachers and Lekhpals stopped. In a democracy like India, a voter who is alive, cannot cast his vote only because his name is not listed in the voter list by Lekhpal or the teacher, while on the other hand, those who have died are still in the voters list. This is the worst example of this system. There should be an independent agency for the preparation of voters list and the highest body, i.e. the Elections Commis-

[Sh. Mitra Sen Yadav]

sion should also be an autonomous agency. I agree with Shri Mandhata Singh who said that the election should be based on ideology and not on the personal traits of an individual. Today it is not ideology but persons that are elected and when persons are elected, it gives rise to personality cult, casteism and communalism and money and muscle power start playing their role in elections. This is the reason that the person who is most powerful in money and muscle power in a constituency, adopts every corrupt practice. In such a situation, the people are not allowed to cast their votes as they are terrorised through murderous assault, looting, beating of the people and booth capturing. Therefore, symbols are not voted for, it is the persons that are voted for, and when the votes are cast in the name of the persons, it gives rise to all sorts of evil practices in our election system. So the elections should be held on the basis of proportional representation and the Parliament should also be constituted on this basis only. This system should be introduced in our country.

Sir, the second issue is that of the identity cards. When we go to cast our votes, we come to know that some body else has already cast the vote in our name. There is no check to apprehend such a person. Therefore, identity card is a must. This will be the most solid proof with the voter. If a person who is enlisted in the electoral roll goes to cast his votes with the identity card with his photograph affixed thereon, then only genuine voting can be ensured.

The third point is that the voting should be made compulsory for the eligible voters. There should be a law under which voting should be made compulsory. Action in the form of fine or in some other form should be taken against the people who do not cast their vote so that one cannot avoid the elections. Sir, the social structure of our country is such that most of the people belonging to the poor strata of our society or backward and poor castes, Adivasis, Scheduled Castes or labourers are not able to cast

their votes according to their free will. There are some other inherent evils also due to which they are not able to make proper use of their votes. So we should evolve a system in which all the people can vote freely irrespective of their socio-economic status. For this purpose we should provide a guarantee to the poor people so that they can vote freely. So many weaknesses and shortcomings have crept in our election system and we should try to reform it by taking guidance from all such examples from the foreign countries, and also by taking into account historic developments and reforms. We should also take into account the evils in our election system and our experience about them as well and on that basis try to bring about reforms in our election system. If we have to reform our election system, it is necessary that the Election Commission should be restructured from top to bottom as an independent body and elections should be held on the basis of proportional representation among the recognised political parties who have their election symbols duly accepted by the Election Commission. It will help in putting an end to evil practice of personality based and communalised politics. Identity card system should be introduced and this is my suggestion that the work relating to preparation of electoral rolls should be entrusted to only an independent agency.

Before I conclude I would like to once again lay stress on my suggestions that identity card should be issued, system of proportional representation should be adopted and Election Commission should be made an independent body. If these four-five points are implemented, it will be possible to maintain the sanctity of our democracy and our faith will remain firm in our democratic set up. Sir, I thank you for providing me an opportunity to participate in this discussion.

[English]

SHRI CHITTA BASU (Barasat): Sir, I would not take much of your time. I have chosen to take part in this debate only to put

across certain suggestions and nothing else. As a matter of fact, the main thrust of the Resolution moved by Shri L.K. Advani was to point out how to fight the muscle power and the money power in our electoral system. That was the thrust of the Resolution. So far as the question of comprehensive electoral reforms is concerned, I think the new Government has taken certain initiatives in the matter. The earlier Government also had initiated the move. Different political parties, including the Election Commission, had made a number of suggestions for the reforms of the electoral system of our country, but the earlier Government could not make up its mind. Although they had assured that the Government-I mean, the earlier Government-would come forward with a comprehensive policy paper or a package programme and would have consultations with different political parties, but they did not. I think they had not the opportunity, or the electorate of our country did not give them the opportunity of producing that comprehensive package programme for electoral reforms. That apart, the cost of election has been increasing and that is a very serious problem for the people to take part in the electoral process. I have got certain figures to show how the election expenditure has gone up year by year, not only on the part of the political parties or the candidates but also on the part of the Government. I have got some paper to suggest that the Election Commission this year has computed a figure as to the cost the Election Commission is to bear to conduct the elections. It says: "This year"-that is, in the last Lok Sabha elections-"the Election Commission spent Rs. 330 crores, which comes to Rs. 3.50 per voter"-that is the cost of the Election Commission-"against sixty paise per voter in 1952 and Rs. 2.20 in 1984." This is only a fraction of the total cost and this cost, bear it in mind, is borne by the Government, and this cost is also escalating year after year. The Election Commission have also come to the conclusion that this year-I mean, in the last Lok Sabha elections-more than Rs. 1,000 crores have been spent only on the Lok Sabha elections in which 6,084 candidates took part. You can very well understand that our country overborne the

cost. It had to spend a big sum of Rs. 1,000 crores for conducting the elections. My friends on the other side would be very much annoyed with me if I also give some figure as to the amount the Congress Party spent during the last elections. It is said: that the AICC's publicity budget alone was to the tune of Rs. 75 crores, and the massive total would be major dent it has been ever. AICC publicly issued that they had prepared a budget of Rs. 75 crores. They have got the money, they can spend... (*Interruptions*)

SHRI HARISH RAWAT (Almora): Never has any AICC bulletin said that. We never spent that much money. You are probably quoting from some newspaper.

SHRI CHITTA BASU: That is a newspaper report. Anyway, you did not spend a single pie. But this is what they say that the AICC had a budget of Rs. 75 crores for the publicity campaign. My point is not about the party or the individual who spend for elections and for whom? But the question is: can democracy effort to allow the parties the system to hold election on the basis of this cost and in order to fight this, in order to remove this danger, the proposal of State funding for election purposes assumes greater significance and I hope that the Government will consider this point.

Now, Sir, there are drawbacks in the system also. I do not say that it is a fool-proof system. For that, I want to make some suggestions. Assuming that the Government will agree to the proposal of State-funding for elections, I think the money should not be given in cash for that purpose. The Government should agree to supply all the raw materials like papers, equipment for campaign, vehicles, posters, banners, printing of voters slips etc.

PROF. N.G. RANGA (Guntur): What about the cars and petrol?

SHRI CHITTA BASU: Yes, they should give them. But there should be a monitoring system as to whether these materials are being properly used by the candidates. In

[Sh Chitta Basu]

order to meet that contingency, my suggestion is to set up an independent organisation to monitor the uses of these materials

Thirdly, now the parties can also contribute in addition to whatever has been given by the Government by way of State-funding for election. There should be some kind of consensus among the Parties on the ceiling of the election expenditure inclusive of these materials given by the Government. In order to put more restriction, there should be a legal provision for prompt disqualification for the violation of any for the conditions for State funding and also the consensus of all the parties in regard to the ceiling of election expenditure. There should also be a legal provision to see that steps be taken to ensure that the State funds are not used as an additional resource over the above any other source of fund

Sir I was listening to the speech of Shri Sathe who rather suggested that our entire electoral system should be changed and should be changed to that of the Presidential system. Sir, I do not like to take much of the time of the House to put forth my arguments against this suggestion. I think the Indian condition is not suitable for such a system, which is called the Presidential system in our country. There are various reasons for that. A Country like India's size, India's culture, India's peculiarities, India's ethnic problems, India's other problems will not find it suitable for adopting such a system and I think it will not create a condition conducive for the Presidential system.

Lastly, Sir, there is another proposal. Earlier our electoral system was more or less of simultaneous conduct of elections to the State Assemblies and Parliament. The elections were held simultaneously and that process is disturbed, that process is upset now. Now, there are separate dates for holding elections for Panchayats, separate dates for holding elections for the local Self-Government, separate dates for holding elections for the State Legislatures and separate

dates for the Parliament election. Holding the elections in this way increases the cost. And I think we should revert back to the earlier system of holding simultaneous elections in all the elected bodies in the country. If it is possible, I would suggest, there should be a simultaneous elections right from the panchayat to the Parliament and that will give a pattern of political affairs, that will give a particular pattern of power in the country right from the bottom to the apex level. This will not only set up a particular pattern in accordance with the verdict of the people, but it would also reduce to a great extent the cost of election and also the social tensions that are engendered during the course of election campaign and that will also reduce to a great extent the other evils which we are confronted with today during the election campaign and in other affairs also.

[Translation]

SHRI SURYA NARAYAN YADAV (Saharsa) Mr Chairman Sir, all of us have been elected to this house after contesting the elections and we have found that there is bungling during the elections at every place and specially the ruling party resorts to the un-fair practices. Prior to this election, we had also contested the Assembly elections and whenever we went to the people to seek their votes, we found that the ruling party used to take some advantage with the complicity of the local administration. Therefore, election reforms are very essential. Many experienced MPs have put forward very good suggestions. I would also like to give one or two suggestions. First of all, there should be a ceiling of expenditure for Lok Sabha and Assembly elections. The Election Commission has given a suggestion for fixing a specified amount in this connection and said that so much of amount should be spent in a Parliamentary constituency, but we have seen that the ceiling is never observed, nobody cares for that ceiling and the candidates who are elected or who are defeated, prepare some bouchers and submit the account of election expenses and that account is accepted. This means that we have not been able to put any restrictions on

election expenses.

Secondly, I would like to submit that a Parliamentary constituency comprises of every large area, whereas the police force in a district is very insufficient in comparison to the population of the district. I would like to give an example that the population of a block is generally 1.5 or 2 lakhs, whereas the strength of police personnel in a police station is only 20-25. I have not been able to understand so far as to how the district administration is able to hold election with the help of such an in-adequate number of police personnel. The members of some political parties resort to lathis and hockey sticks and believe in the principle of 'might is right.' The villagers do not go to cast their votes as they are terrorised by the persons having rifles and bombs. Even the polling officers and presiding officers flee from the polling booths to protect their lives. Booths are captured in this manner during the elections. I would, therefore, submit that keeping in view the holding of elections in a smooth manner as also on humanitarian grounds, the strength of force must be augmented. It would have three benefits. It would provide employment to the unemployed, survey work would be undertaken at block level and elections would be held in a proper manner with the help of police force. Fourthly, I would like to suggest that at present, a Parliamentary constituency comprises of 6-7 Assembly constituencies, I would like to suggest that a Parliamentary constituency should comprise of only three Assembly constituencies. Mr. Chairman Sir, I have been elected from Bihar. I would like to submit that a Parliamentary constituency comprises of 24 to 28 lakhs of voters as the population of a district in Bihar is generally 24 lakhs to 28 lakhs, whereas the strength of police personnel in the whole of district is only 50 or 100 police personnel. Therefore, the area of the Parliamentary constituency is required to be reduced.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, I would also like to submit that all the political parties distribute the tickets on caste basis. Yadavs are given tickets in a Yadav dominated constituency

and tribals are given tickets in a tribal dominate area. This should not happen. I would like to urge upon the leaders of the opposition parties as also CPI, CPM, BJP and Prime Minister that tickets should be issued to a person belonging to the minority caste and only then booth capturing can be checked and there could be proper election reforms. It is a very peculiar situation in our country that booth capturing is resorted to even in Amethi which was a Parliamentary constituency of the former Prime Minister, Shri Rajiv Gandhi. When booths are captured in the constituency of the Prime Minister, Election Commission cannot dare to bring about any election reforms. Therefore, what is required today is to make the Election Commission really independent so that is not influenced by any individual or a party. Only then such an independent organisation would work properly. At present Election Commission has to work to please the ruling party and it hesitates to bring about any reforms in the elections. With these words, I express my thanks to you for giving me time to express my views.

SHRI HARISH RAWAT (Almora): Mr. Chairman, Sir, Election laws are the Gangotri of our political system, because politics and political system have their roots in the elections. If we do not clean this Gangotri and allow all sorts of evils to creep into it, the political system would also be gradually polluted. The resolution moved by Shri Advaniji in this House reflects and concern of all the members regarding the electoral system. There is one lacuna in the resolution. Hon. Shri Advaniji has said that this House should consider as to how the money and muscle power could be eliminated from the elections. I think that if he would have added in the resolution that step should be taken to eliminate the electoral system and elections by religious slogans as also religious and caste influences, this resolution would have appeared to be a complete resolution. It is fact that at present elections are influenced more on the basis of religions and castes then by money and muscle power. During recent Lok Sabha elections defeat and victory of political parties has been

[Sh. Harish Rawat]

decided by religious slogans at many places. Most of the members sitting on the opposite side had been elected due to religious slogans. We have seen that candidates seek votes in the name of religion or religious places and some candidates seek votes by putting on religious robes. There are many political parties which are based on religions. The present Punjab problem has been created only because some political parties were allowed to be formed on the basis of religions. The situation has worsened so much that many political parties in the country have been formed on the basis of religious slogans and religions and it has become very difficult to control them. On many occasions a demand has been raised in this House and outside the House to separate politics from religions. A ban should be imposed to contest elections on the basis of religions, but there has been lack of will to take a decision in this regard and that is why, even though the members of ruling party and the opposition have been putting pressure and they are willing for such a step, but we have not been able to put a ban for contesting the elections on the basis of religions and religious slogans. I would like to put forward the second suggestion that a ban should be imposed on the formation of political parties on the basis of regions and parochial slogans. Shri Mitra Sen was saying very correctly that the political parties should be formed on the basis of ideology. There may be individual oriented politics in democratic countries and as ours is a developing country and if individual politicians do not come forward in developing countries, the entire country may not follow their path. This may create many difficulties and obstacles leading to political instability. The leadership of one individual in politics may be a good sign also as there are examples of many countries. Till Indonesia, Egypt, Ghana were led by individuals having great personality and high character, the political system of these countries functioned very well and as soon as these politicians left the political scene, dictatorship was established in these countries leading to many obstacles and difficul-

ties. But I am completely in favour of formation of political parties on the basis of ideology. The party should explain to the people the policies on which they would govern the countries. They should also explain their economic policies and social policies. But the difficulty is that some parties are formed on the basis of one particular union and candidates contest elections on the tickets of such parties. Telugu Desam party is a burning example of this fact. This party did not have any political ideology and members of this party were elected to the House by inciting the feelings and emotions in a particular area and formed the government in a state, we are observing these days that this tendency is gradually growing at all the places. Political parties of All India level are becoming irrelevant at many places and their importance has been going down. Therefore, a ban should also be imposed on the regional parties to arouse emotional feelings. We would have to amend our election laws to ensure that no political party is formed on the basis of regional slogans. If there is already such a party, it should be told that it would be recognised and be allowed to contest next elections only after it gets certain percentage of total votes during Lok Sabha elections. If the parties do not get a fixed percentage of votes, they should not be allowed to contest the elections.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, so far as the question of controlling the money power is concerned, our intelligent friends have put forward many suggestions. Those suggestions are very important and I support them. I understand the seriousness of the effect of money power and unless importance of money power is not checked in a democratic system, the people working among the masses will not be able to enter this house and only those members would be elected to the house who would be able to influence the voters during the last days of election campaign with the pomp and show of money power. This would adversely affect the representative character of our parliament. If the Government has sufficient funds, we would demand that the Government should seriously consider the question of state funding of elections by

curtailing the outlay from other sectors. The Government should make allocation for state funding of elections. The Government should bear the entire expenses of elections. When there is state funding of elections, voting should be made compulsory for all voters. Facilities should be provided only to those citizens who cast their votes during the elections. At present a very meagre percentage of votes are cast in the elections and even those votes are divided among five or six political parties. Under such a situation, the members who are elected do not have any contact and rapport with the voters. Therefore, casting of votes must be made compulsory.

The elections of municipalities and panchayats affect the very foundation of our democratic system. There are very few states where elections to panchayats or municipalities are being held regularly or in time. I would like to urge that whenever we consider the question of holding the elections to Lok Sabha and assemblies, we should also make it a constitutional obligation for the state Governments for holding timely elections to panchayats and municipalities.

A reference has been made to the influence of muscle power. Many of our friends and Shri Yadav were speaking about it in great detail. The question today does not concern either to Amethi or any other constituency. The question is as to how long the muscle power would continue to affect the politics of the country. If the muscle power continues to affect our politics in this manner, the situation may come when only Mafia Kings would be elected to the house and the persons, representing masses and having the knowledge of the sufferings and difficulties of the people will not be able to enter the House.

SHRI MANIK SANYAL (Jalpaiguri): Such members have already entered the House.

SHRI HARISH RAWAT: If such mem-

bers have been elected to the House, this is a matter of great sorrow for us. The use of muscle power was first started from Baghpat in Uttar Pradesh. I do not want to refer to the name of the leader who initiated it. Earlier the aspect of booth capturing in the politics of our country was an unknown factor. If we try to find out as to how and from where this factor started, we would find many such faces who are sitting in the opposition responsible for it. But Meham assembly elections is an example in itself. The Meham assembly election is a burning example of the serious malady which is affecting our political system. The wounds have been effecting our political system, but among those wounds, the Meham elections has proved to be a cancer... (*Interruptions*) These are not my words, but honourable Shri Atal Behari Bajpai has uttered these words, in Shimla. Therefore, the members of BJP should not have any objection to these words. Mr. Nathu Singhji you should ask your leader not to utter such words. I am quoting only his words. The wounds have grown in our political system with the help of money power and muscle power. The Meham elections has proved to be cancer in our political system where not only muscle power was used, but even the Government and the persons in the power tried to win the elections with muscle power and when the entire country protested against such an use of muscle power and the people showed that election cannot be won. I am very sorry to say that efforts were made to influence the election commission and an atmosphere was sought to be created and as result the entire election was cancelled. Therefore, it has become very necessary for all of us to consider as to how this malady could be cured from our political system which has grown like cancer in Meham. This malady requires a very competent surgeon. All the political parties will have to give serious thought to this problem and extend their help and support. Only then we would be able to curtail the use of muscle power. With the use of muscle power, caste influence is also used which is evident during the elections held recently in Uttar Pradesh and Bihar.

[Sh. Harish Rawat]

[English]

(Interruptions)

You may kindly ask Mr. Mitra Sen Yadav. He will endorse whatever I am saying here.

[Translation]

Alongwith the use of muscle power in Uttar Pradesh and Bihar, caste factor is also used during the elections. I am very sorry to say that the feelings are aroused in the name of a particular caste and people are asked to use muscle power in favour of particular candidate. People are asked to capture the booths and are provided support. We would have to consider this problem very seriously. Hon. Shri Yadav has given a very good suggestion that all the political parties should develop a convention that the candidates belonging to a minority community or a low caste are fielded as candidates during the elections so the use of muscle power in the name of caste is eliminated and booths are not captured by the people of majority community.

In the end, I would like to submit that delimitation work has not been undertaken for quite a long time.

[English]

It has become overdue now.

[Translation]

The Government should give serious thought to this task and it should come forward to take actions in this regard. All the reserved constituencies should be rotated. If a constituency has been kept reserved for two terms, it should not be kept as a reserved constituency for a third term. It would have a very healthy effect in the development of healthy politics in that particular constituency. The delimitation of Assembly constituencies or Lok Sabha Constituencies should not be based only on population, but the area

of the constituency should also be taken into consideration. In Bikaner parliamentary constituency and in my own parliamentary constituency, there are two districts, one of which is considered to be among the three or four largest districts in the country. In such a Parliamentary constituency, it is very difficult for an elected representative to contact all the voters and to listen to their sorrows and sufferings. Even if I try honestly to reach every village in my constituency, it would take at least five years. I can reach there only when I do not come to Delhi to attend Parliament Session. Similar is the situation in many Assembly and Lok Sabha Constituencies. The development blocks in my constituency are double the size of an Assembly constituency. We should think seriously about this matter. If delimitation work cannot be undertaken with regard to Lok Sabha Constituencies, delimitation must be undertaken for Assembly Constituencies. MLA has direct link with the problems of the people, like drinking water problem, hospitals, schools and such other requirements in the area. When the size of the Assembly Constituency is very large, it becomes very difficult for an MLA to attend to the problems and sufferings of the people in his area and as a result proper development of that area is not undertaken under his leadership. I would, therefore, urge upon the Government that atleast a beginning should be made from Uttar Pradesh. A demand for division of Uttar Pradesh is being raised these days, because people in many areas of Uttar Pradesh feel that their voice is not properly heard in the large UP Assembly. Their problems and sufferings are not properly raised in the UP Assembly. Therefore, delimitation of Assembly constituencies in Uttar Pradesh should be undertaken in such a way that the number of Assembly constituencies in UP and specially in the hilly areas of UP is raised and the size of the Assembly constituencies is reduced.

Ultimately, I would like to urge the Government through you that by holding the all party meeting for considering the amendments in the election laws, a good beginning has been made. Such meetings should be organised in future also. Irrespective of party

affiliations, we would have to consider as to how healthy political system could be developed. We should give suggestions without prejudices or political interests. We should help the Government. We do not say that Government has said that there should be state funding of elections and money should be provided on the eve of elections. We do not want to put Government in a difficult situation. We should try to create a national consensus and on that basis strengthen the hands of the Government so that there could be reforms in the elections laws.

With these words I conclude my speech.

[English]

SHRI PIYARE LAL HANDOO (Anantnag): Sir, the Resolution, discussion about which has been initiated by our esteemed leader of the BJP, is one which, if I may say I am hereby opposing it, perhaps, will unleash a war between orthodoxy and heterodoxy. Our electoral law has been on the statute Book since 1952 immediately after we declared ourselves to be, in terms of the Constitution, a Republic on 26th January, 1950. It is true that from 1952 elections to-date we have noticed certain malpractices coming into the electoral process. But as a student of this basic laws, I would urge upon all the Members of this august House to ask a question: Which is the provision of the Representation of the People Act which is responsible for any of the malpractices conducted or seen or experienced during the electoral process? Which is the provision of the Representation of the People Act which has introduced, what my esteemed colleague Shri Advaniji has called the muscle and money power in the electoral process? Can we cite a single provision from 1 to 135 of the RPA which says that a political party must organise muscle power to win elections or, which says, that a political party must strengthen itself in terms of money to win elections? It is a fact that electoral law prohibits these things. In fact, it says, in very positive terms that such a thing should not be done. But still it is done. We must know where is the ailment. Why do we do it? Each

one of us should ask himself a question as to how much did he spend to win this electoral battle in his own constituency? Did I obey the mandate of law either myself or of my party which gave me the mandate? The answer must be an affirmative no. There may be exceptions, I cannot deny. But exceptions will prove the rule that the ailment flows not from the letter of law, not from the mandate of law, but actually from what we political activists have done of the electoral processes.

As a student of law if you go through the history of election petitions in the country not only from 1952 to 1990, but ever since the first elections under the Constitution of 1919 and later under the constitution of 1935, you will find that if the complaints have been made against the electoral process they have been against breaches made by the candidates of the mandate of law; and not because of the mandate of law or because of the letter of law. I do not want to give examples.

In 1967 we had in my State what came to be known as historic electoral battle. That was the first year in the history of J & K, when the All India Congress Party had been formed in 1965 and National Conference having chosen to maintain its identity, that there was a possibility of an electoral battle in all the 76 constituencies of the State a National Conference man opposing a Congress man or in the Jammu Province, a National Conference man opposing a BJP man and a Congress man together. You have not to strain your memory much and you will know that out of 76 seats, 22 elections results became known on the date of scrutiny itself by massive rejection of nomination papers of everybody who belonged to National Conference. The Congress party won 22 seats on the table of the Returning Officer.

Hallowed be the memory of Justice Gajendragadkar, under his presidentship a Commission of Enquiry was set up; not about the electoral battles, not about the 1967 elections, but about the general mal-adjustment of Kashmir society. Lo and behold¹, the

[Sh. Piyare Lal Handoo]

accusing finger pointed towards the method and methodology as one of the reasons therefor, and said-those words still echo in my ears-about one of the Returning Officers who was an IAS officer-not proper to name him-that no civilised country can suffer such civil servants on its service if they deal with the electoral matters in the manner in which he is proved to have done.

Again I am only trying to bring out the point that there was nothing wrong with the letter of law, nothing wrong with the mandate of law, but everything wrong with the practice of political parties, everything wrong with the conduct of returning officers, everything wrong with the man who handled the law.

In our own country which has a fragmented humanity, we have not to travel far. We have the classic example of the election of Madam Indira Gandhi getting vacated in 1975 or so. Again you will find the reasons given by the judge were not that there was some defect in the letter of law, or that there was something wrong in the mandate of law. In fact the law had to be changed later after the judgement was given to bring it in conformity with my conduct, with my behaviour and with my work.

So the right moment perhaps in the Indian society has come when political parties must of their own convene a seminar and answer one question—why do we defy the electoral law? Why our practice is such that I cannot keep faith in what I have given unto myself as the electoral law? After the Constitution, which is the organic law, it is the electoral law, which is the basic law—I do not call it organic law, because Constitution is the organic law. But none-the-less, the basic law which is ultimately responsible for the creation of these legislative Houses including this august House is the Representation of People's Act. But why is that I, as a political activist or a member of a political party feel pleasure in defying this law? who will be happy to defy this law? Sir, we have seen that immediately after the elections-

without naming him-one of the elected Members got sentence to life imprisonment, which means that, during the course of the election process, at the time of filing the nomination papers, he was an accused, facing trial for murder. We have also seen very recently, at the last elections that a MLA, duly elected legislator was convicted to six years imprisonment for cheating, which act he committed even before the filing of his nomination papers or getting the mandate from the political party. The case was being argued when he got the mandate from the political party. Do you expect that muscle power can not as such be there to win the election? The purpose for the political party is to win the election. After all, why is that in England conventions are followed and here we do not follow even the letter, much less the spirit of law?

Then, about the election expenses statement, when we file our election expenses statement, either of our own or of our party, we are under an oath to speak the truth or in other words, as citizens of this country, under an obligation to speak the truth. It has to be filed immediately after the election, but we do not speak the truth when we file it. The law requires us to record expenses and file them after the election. Do we say that we must change the law when the law does not require us to spend more? After having spent what we have, we file a statement saying that we have spent much less. It may not be true in exceptional cases. But those are exceptions rather than the rule-the rule being that all of us spend more than the law permits us to spend and in filing the statement we do not speak the truth. Does the law require to be changed to undo this practice? We must make it a word of honour to respect our law and we should live by our laws and not live over our laws. We must not find ways to defeat the provisions of law, to breach law. It is true that sometimes we do get overwhelmed and we seek easy escape routes. Here, often we go wrong. We have changed our Constitution many times; we have changed our Representation of People's Act many times. Whether we like it or not, we have enacted the Indian Penal Code, in the

earlier part of in the Century. If it is so, how is it that we have not required to change this law so far? Muscle power is still there during elections. It can be given a go-bye, if each one of us remember that we call Mahatma Gandhi as the Father of our Nation. We call him so and remain content with that. After calling him so, we are doing what we have already decided to do. In today's elections, and the electoral alliances or adjustments, which is the latest part of our electoral sign, we forget the ideologies. But arithmetical mathematics is more important, how to defeat the candidate becomes more important; how to win the elections becomes more important. We had talked of ideologies in the early 60s and 70s. These days we do not talk of ideologies, particularly in the kind of political set up that we have chosen to give ourselves. We hear of malpractices in the electoral process which is not the result of any law, but the result of manhandling that law. No change of law is required to save us from such phenomenon. I have been a student of Marxism and at that point of time, priority was for ideological rigour which was the causality, during the course of these electoral adjustments and alliances. The electoral arithmetic is such that we see, even the CPM is defending the indefensible because of compulsions of electoral arithmetic. But, none the less, they have to do it because they have to win the elections, to keep somebody away. What am I sacrificing at that time? I am sacrificing what should have been my core. What should have been my core is my ideology. In the kind of electoral alliances we are in, we say, "What is it that takes precedence? What attracts high priority?" My humble submission, therefore, is: kindly beware. Let us wait. Now, Government of India has appointed a committee for electoral reforms. Let us wait and see what the collective wisdom of that committee brings ultimately before us. And after due consideration, let us adopt for ourselves changes in the electoral laws which are necessary. But think twice before you change this system of the electoral process. It is true that West Germany has something known as List System and Election funding as you call it. Give it any name. But don't be enamoured of

this system. Be true to your system. If it is to be changed, it should be changed as a result of our reality that it has not worked. My humble opinion as a student of social science is that it has not betrayed us so far. It has stood the test. It will certainly be an instrument for complete social change which is needed in the country. I thank you for having given me the opportunity to say this much.

[Translation]

SHRI RAGHAVJI (Vidisha): Hon. Chairman, the issue of electoral reforms raised by Shri Advaniji in this House is the need of the hour. Elections are being held in this country since 1952 and at the time of enacting election laws efforts were made to see that there are no shortcomings in those laws and elections are not won with the help of money or muscle power. But the provisions made are not adequate and that is why various shortcomings came into those laws.

During the elections held in the past few years the words with the initial letter 'M' have played a vital role—Money, Muscle, Machinery and Mischief. With the help of these four 'Ms' Congress used to win elections continuously. Whenever elections are held, these forces pay their role openly. Therefore, it is necessary to check these forces. The present provisions are inadequate. That is why Shri Advani has raised this issue.

First of all, I would like to say that the number of polling booths should be increased. At some places one polling booth covers 6, 7, or 8 villages and their distance ranges between 3 to 6 kms. The list sent by the Returning Officer shows a distance of only 1 1/2 kms. whereas actual distance is 7-8 kms. In order to bring large number of voters to the polling booths, the political parties try to vie each other and they make use of motor vehicles for this purpose and spend huge money on this count. I, therefore, would like to submit that a polling booth must be set up in a village having a population of more than 300 people. I am fully in agreement with the view that there should be

[Sh. Raghavji]

state funding of elections and this state funding should be partly in the form of cash and partly in the form of material. For instance, four copies of electoral rolls should be supplied to each recognised political party free of charge. At present only two copies are being supplied to them. Instead of two copies four copies should be supplied to them. Besides, each recognised political party should get voters' slips in respect of all the voters. A lot of amount is spent on purchase of paper and printing of these slips. The voters' slips duly printed and filled up should be supplied to only recognised political parties not others. In addition, Government should supply paper for pamphlets and posters and this paper should be of specific colour and quality. Except these, no other posters and pamphlets should be allowed to be printed. This will result in reduction in election expenses and only that much number of posters and pamphlets will be printed for which paper is given. Uniform distribution of paper among all the political parties should be ensured and no discrimination should be shown in this regard. Amount in cash should be given to meet the loudspeaker and transport expenses. The election expenses should be met by the Central Government and the respective State Government. Under the existing system in one Parliamentary or Assembly constituency about one dozen candidates and sometimes more than 100 candidates contest election. The security amount for an Assembly seat is Rs. 250/- and for a Parliamentary seat is Rs. 500/-. This limit was fixed in 1952. The value of Rs. 500/- of that time is now Rs. 10,000/-. Therefore, the security amount for an Assembly seat should be Rs. 5,000/- and for a Parliamentary seat it should be Rs. 10,000/-. This limit may not apply to all recognised political parties but this limit must be there for independent candidates. Besides, it should also be provided that those candidates, whose security is forfeited, should not be allowed to contest any election for a period of next 6 years. They should not be allowed to contest election for Municipal Committees or any local body. It will result in reduction of num-

ber of candidates as well as of those who stand in election for horse trading or political gain only.

At present two tier system exists in the country. State Assembly does exist in all the states whereas in certain states State Legislative Council also exists. This dual system should be done away with. There is no need of Legislative Councils, as these are a huge burden on Government.

Therefore, Legislative Councils functioning in various states should be abolished. Instead, a provision should be made to associate one fourth Members of the elected Members belonging to each party in the House. The persons, who are not able to win elections but are influential and can give their contribution in the development of the state, should be associated, by making a provision of 25 per cent. It should be made essential for every person to cast his vote and in case of failure a fine of Rs.500/- should be imposed on him. As a result all persons will cast their vote and one will be able to know as to what the people actually want. For polling purpose a ban should be imposed on the use of all motor vehicles except government vehicles, state roadways buses and railway trains. The Election Commission has set up certain norms but these are not getting statutory status. After declaration of elections there should be a ban on new appointments and transfers. But these norms are not adhered to these days in the absence of statutory status. Therefore, a statutory provision should be made that after declaration of elections no new appointment and transfer will be effected. Besides, no foundation stone should be laid or no inauguration ceremony should be held. In addition, Assembly elections and Parliamentary elections should be held simultaneously. In the recent elections the interval between Parliamentary elections and elections for certain State Assemblies was two months only. The Congress Government did not hold assembly elections alongwith Parliamentary elections despite recommendation of the Election Commission because it

benefits the ruling party. I am of the opinion that Parliamentary and Assembly elections should be held simultaneously as far as possible. Reserved constituencies should be rotated. The non-reserved constituencies should be made reserved. Publicity and propaganda on video should be banned. I further demand that Congress Party should not be allowed to use tri-colour flag during election campaign. Since our national flag has three colours, generally a misunderstanding generates among the illiterate rural people that government and party are one and Congress Party has deliberately taken political advantage of it. Keeping this in view the use of tri-colour flag by Congress Party during election campaign should be banned.

Mr. Chairman, I would like to say one thing more and then conclude. After the elections the defeated candidates file election petitions in courts which are not disposed of for a very long period. Sometimes, the entire period of 5 years passes in this process. A number of such cases pertaining Lok Sabha and Madhya Pradesh Vidhan Sabha have come to light in respect of which no decision has so far been taken. In my opinion an election petition should be disposed of with a period of 6 months. The system of bye-elections should be dispensed with. Only that person belonging to a particular party, who has won so and so seat, should be permitted by that party to contest Lok Sabha or Vidhan Sabha election. By doing so unnecessary expenditure will be curtailed. Many many thanks for you, Mr. Chairman, for the opportunity given to me to speak.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: We have already exhausted the time allotted for this discussion. I want to know whether all of you are interested in extending the time further for this. I am having a long list of Members, who want to participate. The topic is also very interesting. Can we extend the time by two hours? There are yet thirty Members who want to speak.

AN. HON. MEMBER: Today is Friday.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Yes, we are adjourning at 6 O'clock.

SHRIMATI BASAVA RAJESWARI (Bellary): Let us extend the time by two hours.

PROF. N. G. RANGA (Guntur): Yes, by two hours.

SHRIRAM NAIK (Bombay North): Those who are present in the House and have yet to speak, may be allowed five minutes each. We can extend the time for this by two hours.

MR. CHAIRMAN: All right; the time for this discussion is extended by another two hours.

The House will adjourn at 6 O'clock and before that we will take up matters under Rule 377.

Now, Mrs. Malini Bhattacharya.

SHRIMATI MALINI BHATTACHARYA (Jadavpur): Mr. Chairman, Sir, we are at the tail-end of the day and I would try not to repeat the points already mentioned and would confine myself to a few points. xyz

I think, on certain points, like how to reform the present polling system there has been a certain degree of consensus. For instance, Proportional representation, has been accepted to a certain extent, though not altogether. There is another point, i.e. State funding of elections, on which I think there is a general consensus. Along with State funding, there should also be a complete ban on funding by companies and by big capitalists. There should be a complete ban on this.

Now, I think there is no need to go into details on these matters. However I would like to say a few words on the background of the present situation which is leading to so much discussion about the poll reforms. We have, as a matter of fact this situation where-

[Smt. Malini Bhattacharya]

as the resolution says—money power and muscle power play a very big role in our elections. Now, I would say that this in fact is inevitable in a situation where money power—and as you know muscle power can be bought with money power—is concentrated in a few hands. We have this display of money power in every sphere and it is not unnatural that there is a display of money power in the elections as well. This has been there, I think as a marginal phenomenon, even from the beginning of the elections in India. However, I would like to say that it started becoming a big problem at one point of time when we found that the largest ruling party, i.e. the Congress Party and later the Congress(I) Party, started losing its popular base. That was the time when the large scale of criminalisation of politics also started. I would say, that whatever evils we found later—rigging, booth capturing, terrorisation of Opposition parties, terrorisation of the electorate of all these things we had a dress rehearsal in West Bengal in 1971-72. I think what happened later in Tripura in Mizoram in Amethi or in Meham, all that was anticipated, foreshadowed in West Bengal in early seventies. And I think this was precisely when in West Bengal the largest ruling party in the country was about to lose its sole authority.

After that, of course, in 1975 we had the notorious election laws Amendment Act about which the hon. Shri Handoo has spoken. In 1977 the Election Commission had made a suggestion that all contributions by companies should be banned and in defiance of this suggestion of the Election Commission, in 1985, donations up to 5 per cent of the overall net profit of the companies in the last 3 years was allowed. This was another compromise which was made in 1985.

The other point that I wanted to make has in fact been brought in by others also and that is the increasing communal slogans that have been heard in the situation of elections these days. This has been a sinister feature and the communal issue is coming to have an increasing role in elections. Of course,

this is legally prohibited. Our election laws and our election conventions prohibit this. Yet in the last Lok Sabha elections, we saw this going rampant. The Ram Janmabhoomi-Babri Masjid issue became a central issue in the last Lok Sabha elections. We found the evils of communalisation of politics come to the forefront. I would like to say that this communalisation of politics also involves criminalisation of religion. I am myself not a believer, but I am sure there are many genuinely religious people in this House who would all agree with me that this criminalisation of religion or politicisation of religion—whereby religion becomes a stick to beat other people with—is vitiating the atmosphere in our country today. All religious people I think would agree with me that this should not happen. Very stringent measures should be taken about this.

Lastly, I wanted to say this. We have seen the influence of communalisation of politics in Punjab. We find how terrorism has spread. How there has been a confusion of political issues with religious issues in Punjab. But I would also like to say that the fear psychosis that is generated among the minorities, in what we boast of as a secular country, is because of certain increase in the aggressive attitude of the majority community. The intolerance of the majority community, the aggressiveness of the majority community finds its reactions in a kind of a mirror image in minority fundamentalism. Majority fundamentalism breeds minority fundamentalism. I think very stringent measures should be taken against this. I agree on this point entirely with the hon. Member on the Opposition bench. However, I would also like to say that it was tragic really to see Dr. Frankenstein being chased by the monster of his own creation. I would certainly say that. Because, the erstwhile ruling party had a very big role to play in this communalisation of politics that is vitiating the atmosphere in our country, today.

PROF. SAVITHRI LAKSHMANAN (Mukundapuram): First of all, let me thank you for giving me this opportunity. As a newcomer to this house, Sir, I may commit

mistakes, but I am sure that you will forgive me, because I knew from my little experience, you are the person to save us-new-comers-or better I say the backbenchers in this House.

Anyway, let me come to the subject-poll reforms. I have a lot to say. Malpractices are done even in preparing electoral rolls. Some officials are entrusted to do this work. They have to collect the names, within the age limit, from door to door. But led by sheer politics, these officials include the names of those people who stand in favour of their political attitude. Whenever a new entry is to be made, they relax in the case of one who is in favour of their party. They may put the name of one boy or girl in the sweet seventeen or even in sixteen, though there is the rigid rule that only those who completed eighteen years will enjoy the right to vote. Unfortunately, some others who have completed 19 or 20 years are not in the electoral roll; the sole reason may be that he or she does not favour the party which the enumerator loves.

In my constituency, during the last Lok Sabha elections, there were a lot of experiences indicating this type of malpractices. So many aspiring sisters in some Convents were not included in the list, because the ruling party of my State believes that their votes may not be in favour of the Government. There were newspaper reports that the leaders of the Communist Party (Marxist) are ready to make friendship with those who are in a position to leave the Church and clergymen. That definitely means that my brothers in CPI(M) group were afraid of certain votes in certain circles, and they wanted to limit the number of votes from that particular circle as much as they could. So, my point is that illegal entries into the electoral rolls and purposeful omission from the same must be treated very seriously. Nowadays, of course, corrections are done if pointed out, after a strong fight. I think-it is my humble request-that those irresponsible Government officers who are doing this malpractice have to be punished. It is my humble wish that the preparation of electoral

rolls must be given much more importance. It is not a monkey-play.

Booth-capturing is a headache. I do not know exactly what happened in Meham. I knew it only through newspapers. But I know what was happening in my State, in the bye-election conducted during last February. Haripad, which was represented by my party, became a question of prestige to the ruling party, after their miserable failure in the Lok Sabha elections. So, all types of malpractices were done in that constituency, in order to win the seat for LDF.

Sir, in the forenoon session of the election day, things were to an extent Okay. But in the afternoon, even women polling agents were beaten up and admitted to the hospital. The situation would have been worse if the Congressmen, the true followers of Mahatma Gandhi, were not practising 'Ahimsa'.

Sir, I request the Government to issue orders for severe punishment to those who are involved in booth-capturing, not only in Haripad but in Meham and elsewhere in the country.

Again, it is written in the instructions in connection with the conduct of elections-I can quote some of them-"Don't make any gift or offer or promise of gratification to any person to induce another to stand."; "Don't promote or attempt to promote feelings of enmity or hatred between different classes of citizens on grounds of religion, race, caste, community or language.' There is yet another rule: 'Don't publish false statements in regard to the personal character and conduct of any candidate.' But these "don'ts" are, in effect, in vain elsewhere in our country.

Coming back to the bye-election in my State, there were so many people in the ruling party, promising new water connections, electric connections, job opportunities, etc., etc. I think my words are not sufficient to express the dramatic ways they approached the people. In front of an old couple whose only son even though highly

[Prof. Savithri Lakshmanan]

educated, not getting a job, the way of approach was somewhat like this: "Oh! Uncle! (or Aunt, as the case may be) your son is not still getting a job? Please write an application immediately. I will look into it." You see there are, not 10, or 100, or 1000, but 10 lakhs of job opportunities per year according to the new Government's election manifesto. So the people blindly believe the words of the ruling party and they are ready to write application forms on plain paper and immediately submit it to the party leader hoping that they may get a suitable job on the next immediate opportunity and they are ready to vote for the ruling party. But where is the rule 'don't make promises?' When electric, telephone, water supply connections are given out of turn, just two or three days before the elections, nothing is happening in this Sovereign State. I think electoral reforms may take these factors too into consideration. It is a sorry state that even in the election of the office-bearers of Corporations, Councillors are kidnapped. Everybody including government admits that they are kidnapped and in the absence of these Councillors when the ruling party wins the seat it is not questioned. The result of the election is getting approval and the next day the kidnapped Councillors appear before the public. If they were there to vote, the result would have been vice-versa. To the best of my knowledge no legal action has been taken so far. You please fix a particular period within which election petitions have to be determined. Sometimes it may take five long years and what benefit will the petitioners get after such a long period? So also please restrict the number of irresponsible independent candidates.

I have to add one thing more. I can understand the alliance of different parties before elections. People are aware of the fact that such and such parties are grouped one, and, they vote for the group, they wish to rule them and after elections, without respecting the manifestos, those who fought each other, come in a line and sit together

and howl together, as we see in our House too. When the leader of the Janata Dal came to Kerala, the reception had to be organised by C. P.M. and B.J.P. People were wondering to see the friendship between C.P.M. and B.J.P. Excuse me for remembering one old story retold by the grandmas in our State. There was a period in Kerala when untouchability prevailed. At that period one Namboodiripad who is supposed to be born in a higher cast, met a low class young woman. The girl was too beautiful. Namboodiripad was in an urge to enjoy this girl. But he was afraid of untouchability and he said to the girl, it is told, "Dear one, please embrace me without touching me". This type of illegal embracement is done between C.P.M. and B.J.P. as they stand together in supporting Janata Dal. I think people are betrayed by this type of cooperation. If one party wants to support another in the formation of Government that too must be pointed out before the elections. What is the meaning of getting votes on one stand and sitting in the treasury benches with the support of those who had taken another stand? Those who fought for Ram Janam Bhoomi and Babri Masjid sit together in peace in this House and outside people are killing each other on the same issue. Sir, I request you to frame the electoral reforms considering this ground also.

Once again I thank you for your patient hearing and through you, Sir, to the whole House.

SHRI SYED MASUDAL HOSSAIN (Murshidabad): In her constituency, CPM captured the booths and even then she won the election battle. This is the joke of the day.

(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN: I am not allowing anybody.

(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: Shri M.S. Pal.

SHRI M.S. PAL (Nainital): Mr. Chairman, first of all I would like to thank you for the opportunity given to me to speak.

At the outset, I would like to say that while effecting electoral reforms identity cards should be issued in order to ensure that only genuine persons cast their votes. In this regard I would like to give an instance. In 1977 when Acharya Kripalani went to Meerut to cast his vote, it was found that someone else had already cast vote in his place. When someone else can cast vote in place of a great person and leader like Acharya Kripalani, what to speak of ordinary persons. Therefore, identity cards should be issued to voters. When hon. Prof. Ranga is sitting here and somebody else cast his vote in place of him, then it is a matter of great surprise. So, identity cards should be issued.

Secondly, polling booths should be set up at short distance so that people can easily come there and there is no need to use motor vehicle or other means of transport to bring the voters. If polling booths are set up in close proximity covering small population, booth capturing will be minimised as people are familiar to each other and have regard for each other. It can be a political initiative also.

Thirdly, the Chief Ministers, Ministers and some big union Ministers make use of government motor vehicles, helicopters, aircrafts and other means of transports. During the last elections I was a candidate from Nainital and I used to travel by road. It is a hilly area. For going from one peak to another in this area the Chief Minister used helicopter. I used to start in the morning and reached a particular place in the evening whereas the Chief Minister toured the entire area within two hours time only. If a person travels on foot or motor vehicle and another travels by helicopter, then how can a good practice be set up. Therefore, this aspect should be looked into and a legislation should be enacted by government in this regard.

Fourthly, the Prime Minister, the Chief Ministers and the Home Ministers should not contest election for the second term from the

same constituency. Although, every candidate spends money and makes use of resources according to his capacity, yet Ministers spend huge money as a result of which they become very influential in that area and the other candidate is unable to do anything despite having every good thinking. In this regard I would like to cite an example in respect of Amethi Constituency. During all the earlier elections the same thing had happened. In Amethi the entire votes were cast in one hour only. Therefore, the Prime Minister, the Chief Ministers and the Home Ministers should not be allowed to contest election for the second term from the same constituency.

I would also like to suggest that Assembly and Parliamentary elections should be held simultaneously. By doing so, the parties, which are financially weak and which do not have adequate resources, can manage their affairs efficiently. In this way both MLAs and MPs can get a very good platform for propaganda and publicity. Therefore, Parliamentary and Assembly elections should be held simultaneously.

There should be an independent Election Commission. Under the rules the District Magistrate is appointed as the Returning Officer. I suggest that some other officer should be appointed as the Returning Officer because the ruling party selects only those DMs which are loyal to it. In this way the things are manipulated. In order to check it some other officer instead of DM should be appointed as the Returning Officer.

I would like to say that our Constitutions, our laws and rules are very good but these are not implemented sincerely. If these are implemented sincerely, electoral reforms can be effected to a great extent. I would like to appreciate the hon. Prime Minister, Shri Vishwanath Pratap Singh for his firm advocacy for electoral reforms though he has not made any commitment at present in this regard.

With these words I thank you for giving me an opportunity to speak.

KUMARI MAYAWATI (Bijnor): Sir, after the country became independent and after the new Constitution was framed, the framer of the Constitution Baba Saheb Ambedkar had said that the king/queen of this country used to be by birth but after country's independence and after enforcement of new Constitution the king/queen of this country will not be by birth. They will be elected by people by adult franchise. I would like to ask you as to whether the dreams of our great leaders have been realised by the past or present government sincerely during the elections. I am new in politics. Still I would like to narrate my experience. A Parliamentary bye-election was held from Hardwar in U.P. in 1987 during Congress regime. The Congress candidate was Shri Ram Singh where as on behalf of Bahujan Samajwadi Party I was contesting the election. The Janata Party's candidate was Shri Ram Vilas Paswan, who has won the last Lok Sabha election from a constituency in Bihar by a margin of more than 5 lakh votes and has thus got his name recorded in 'The Guinness Book of World Record'. I would like to say that during this bye-election government machinery was misused on a very large scale. In this election mockery of democracy was made with the help of bureaucrats. Had there been free and fair elections, I would have come into Parliament much earlier. In that election Congress candidate got 1,49,000 votes and I got 1,36,399 votes. Shri Ram Vilas Paswan got 25,000 votes and his security was forfeited.

On the day of polling Shri Deepak, who was an MLA from Muzaffarnagar and was also a Minister in U.P. Government, had taken away the ballot box from a polling booth set up at Talheri in Hardwar. The local people snatched back the ballot box from him and in this scuffle the ballot papers were torn and the Election Commissioner was telegraphically informed about it as a result which repolling was ordered. It happened during Congress regime. At that time the oppressed and depressed people were not allowed to cast their vote independently.

During the regime of National Front

Government Vidhan Sabha elections have been held recently. During these elections we have felt that during Congress regime government machinery was misused, but now under the National Front Government regime feudal powers have raised their heads because V.P. Singh is a son of a big landlord. He belongs to an old royal family and during the elections held in 8 states the feudal lords took help of anti-social and other elements in the name of Shri V. P. Singh and did not allow the oppressed persons to cast their votes.

Mr. Chairman, we say that the Election Commission holds free and fair elections in the country, but in my view it does not hold free and fair election. It works under the pressure of Government. If we want that there should be free and fair elections in the country, we will have to make the Election Commission an independent body and it should be free from any government pressure.

Shri Advani has said in his resolution that in elections money power and muscle power should be checked. A large number of hon. Members have expressed their views in this regard, but nobody has said as to whose against money power and muscle power are used. Money power and muscle power are not used against the capitalists, rich persons and feudal lords. These powers are used against oppressed persons, scheduled casts/tribes and linguistic minority communities including Sikhs, Muslims, Christians, Pares, Buddhists whose total population is 85% in the country. In order to check the use of money power and muscle power during elections in the country, polling booths should be set up in those areas where people belonging to scheduled caste/scheduled tribe and other weaker sections of society live. I have seen that throughout the country polling booths are set up in areas where capitalists, landlords and elitists live. During the elections they threaten the oppressed persons that in case they do not vote according to their will, they will have to lose their means of livelihood. They are pressurised in such a manner. The result is that poverty is increas-

ing day by day. The oppressed persons are becoming helpless and they come under the pressure of feudal powers and landlords and cast their vote according to their will. I, therefore, request you that polling booths should be set up in areas inhabited by scheduled castes and scheduled tribes and persons belonging to weaker sections of society. Steps should be taken to check the use of money power and muscle power as also to check misuse of government machinery during elections.

Some hon. Members have stated that period of reserved seats should be fixed. Reserved seats should be rotated after every two or three years. But they have not stated as what should be the criterion for making reserved seat as general seat. In order to give political reservation to scheduled castes/tribes Baba Saheb Dr. Ambedkar had fixed the criterion that the constituency, where oppressed persons, scheduled caste and scheduled tribe people live in large number, should be made reserved seat because in this way they can get due representation in Parliament and Vidhan Sabhas. If such constituencies are rotated after every 2-3 years, it will not be beneficial for these people. Keeping in view the criterion fixed by Baba Ambedkar the reserved seat which is backward and where scheduled castes/tribes are in majority, should not be converted into a general seat.

I reiterate that polling booths should be set up in areas where scheduled castes/tribes live. The Election Commission should be held responsible for setting up polling booths in areas where these people live. A criterion should be fixed for converting a reserved seat into a general seat. Before converting a reserved seat into a general seat it must be seen as to how much development of oppressed people has taken place in that area. Only that constituency should be reserved where oppressed persons are in majority.

With these words I thank you.

[English]

SHRIMATI BASAVA RAJESWARI (Bellary): Mr. Chairman, Sir, at the outset I would like to thank you for having given me an opportunity to participate in the discussion on this Resolution. It is a very important Resolution. Many Members have given very good suggestions and I would like to say a few words on this.

Sir, as on today people are becoming more and more ambitious towards politics. They have many more reasons. The talk of the town is, one way of easy earning is to become a politician. (*Interruptions*). It is a loose talk. But I don't agree there. But the talk is going on. One other reason is, due to unemployment we are creating more and more number of politicians and corruption is very much increasing. My hon. friend, the lady Member, was explaining about the enumeration that takes place. Sir, corruption starts from the enumeration. Whichever party is in power in the respective States, they want to enumerate the voters wherever they have favourable votes. Then the next stage is regarding the location of the booth. There also corruption plays a major role. The third stage comes at the time of appointment of Presiding Officers and then Returning Officers. There also corruption is very much rampant. So, on the one side this corruption is growing too much and the expenses are increasing. The whole object of bringing this resolution is to see how much we can reduce the expenditure. To reduce the expenditure many hon. Members are of the opinion that the State should fund for these elections. Sir, I don't agree to it. I would have been very glad if they have given very good suggestions on how best we can reduce the expenditure, how best we can try to reduce corruption. But there is no meaning in saying that State should fund or again, the political parties should fund or the candidate who is going to stand also will spend something. According to me, nothing is practical. Speaking something is different and implementation is altogether different. We speak of untouchability; how far we have succeeded?

[Smt. Basava Rajeswari]

We speak of child marriage, but still so many small children are being married. We speak of sati, still it is going on. We speak of eradication of *Deva dasi* system; but has it been eradicated? It is still there. Like that, even if we say that the State has to fund the elections, I do not think that is going to be a practical solution, according to me.

Sir, I would like to give some suggestions for reducing the expenditure. My hon. friend was telling in her speech, that religious places should not be utilised for political purposes. For that, we have passed an enactment, because it is going to be more dangerous to this country if this system is continued. At the time of bringing electoral reforms, our previous Government had categorically said that religious places should not be used for political campaigns. We should very much restrict these things. Another thing I would like to emphasise is that at the time of election people are being intoxicated and this should be avoided. For days together, they have been given this toddy and arrack. Crores of money is being spent on supplying these drinks. Of course, we prohibit supply of drinks for three days, but it is not enough. In those days, people used to ask us to give coffee. Now-a-days, nobody asks for coffee or snacks. They only want this toddy and arrack.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Madam, at that time they were talking like that, but now the time has changed.

SHRIMATI BASAVA RAJESWARI: Sir, I am coming to that point. Why should we not introduce total prohibition in this country? So many women are crying every day. At least to see that women folk is rescued and the children are brought up to get good education, we should stop this totally and we should introduce total prohibition in this country. Unless we stop this, I do not think that we would be able to curb muscle power and rigging of booths. All these things are taking place only because of intoxication. This is one point which everybody should

give a serious thought about.

Sir, delimitation of constituencies has not taken place for a long time. Many constituencies have been reserved for more than 15 or 20 years and people are fed up with these things. We should immediately start delimitation of constituencies. There are constituencies where reservation is being continued for years together. It is better delimitation takes place as early as possible and change of reservation also is quite necessary. Apart from prohibition, I would like to give some more suggestions.

I would suggest that every village should have a booth. If you provide polling booth in each and every village to some extent we can reduce the expenditure. Now-a-days even elections in the local bodies are fought on party tickets. I am not in favour of that. If elections for the local bodies, even at the Panchayat level, are fought on party tickets, we will be incurring more and more expenditure. Moreover, the village like atmosphere would be very much changed. Therefore, my suggestion will be, local body elections should not be fought on party tickets. We should give them free hand. There are instances where unanimous candidates agreeable to all the parties have been elected and they sit together and decide the issues. We should not change such an atmosphere in the villages. By fighting the local body elections on party tickets, we are splitting each village into different parties which results into committing serious atrocities against each other.

Sir, 21 days are given for electioneering. I do not think, so many days are required for campaigning for the election. If the number of days are cut, we can reduce the expenditure.

Finally about booth capturing and muscle power, we are hearing this very recently. I am in politics right from 1957. I do agree that those days were different and these days are altogether different. But I never knew about booth capturing and muscle power those days. We never heard of it in our State. If such things like booth capturing, muscle

power, innocent people being killed continue at the time of elections, what should the people from the South think? Elections in our State are held fairly and I do not think, there are any instances in our State where re-elections have taken place. Such being the case, we feel very bad, when we read in the newspapers that innocent people are killed, booths are captured and officers have managed to hold the show. Is it democracy? Have such people been democratically elected? What is that we have to carry on, if such things happen?

Therefore, I request the hon. Members here to give some suggestions. Instead of asking for State funding, it is better to give more suggestions as to how best we can reduce the expenditure, how best we can minimise corruption and how best we can have democratically elected Government.

With these suggestions, I thank you very much.

SHRI A.N. SINGH DEO (Aska): Mr Chairman, Sir, I do not oppose the Resolution moved by the hon. Member. But since the Government is thinking of bringing about major changes in the People's Representation Act and other electoral laws-the mover will ultimately realise that the Government has set up a machinery to bring about electoral reforms-it would not be necessary for this house to pass this resolution.

It has been said that the elections are day by day becoming more of a problem for this country.

18.00 hrs.

It is because booth capturing, excess of money power, muscle power and other malpractices are on the increase. We must realise that our friends from the opposite side have always tried to bring out that we who are sitting on this side have brought in all these malpractices in elections.

MR. CHAIRMAN: You can continue

tomorrow. Now we will take up matters under Rule 377.

MATTERS UNDER RULE 377

18.01 hrs.

[English]

(I) Need to implement the recommendations of Mahajan Commission to solve border dispute between Karnataka and Maharashtra

SHRI SRIKANTADATTA NARASIMHA RAJA WADIYAR (Mysore): Sir, the border dispute between Karnataka and Maharashtra is being raised again and again in the House and outside. The Chief Minister of Karnataka has made it very clear that Mahajan Commission's Report must be implemented in toto. There is no other alternative. But it is surprising that some leaders met the Prime Minister recently in Bombay and urged him to intervene in this matter. In fact, many Kannada educational institutions have been closed in the border areas of Maharashtra. On the other hand, Karnataka Government is providing all the facilities to the Marathi educational institutions in Karnataka. In 1960, a Committee comprising of Members from both the States was set up but, its recommendations were not implemented. For solving this problem, both the States should adopt the recommendations of Mahajan's Commission.

I, therefore, urge upon the Central Government to implement the recommendations of Mahajan Commission immediately.

(II) Need to give pension to the ex-servicemen of the second world war

PROF. P. J. KURIEN (Mavelikara): Sir, we have honoured our freedom fighters with pension as a token of our gratitude to them

[Prof. P. Kurien]

for their sacrifice for the freedom of the country. The ex-service men who too have spent the prime of their life on the battlefield to protect the motherland are also paid pension. However, there is one category of ex-servicemen who participated in the Second World War. Theirs was no less a sacrifice than that of the freedom fighters or the ex-servicemen. They fought for the country perhaps under more trying circumstances. We seem to have forgotten those heroes. Their number is shrinking day by day, but their case deserves our attention.

I would request the Government to consider favourably giving of pension to the ex-servicemen of the Second World War.

[Translation]

(III) Need to set up industries in industrially backward Saharsa district of Bihar

SHRI SURYA NARAYAN YADAV: Mr. Chairman Sir, the Saharsa district of Bihar is a backward district from industrial point of view. The Government of India had directed the State Government to submit a list of backward districts of Bihar. The State Government sent a list of 10 districts and Saharsa is one of them which is quite backward. The unemployment problem has assumed alarming proportion in this district which has a population of 35 lakhs.

I urge upon the Central Government to set up at least four industries—1 jute mill, 1 plastic bag factory and 2 sugar mills in this district. At present the raw material which is available in this district is sent outside. It is hoped that the Government will take prompt action in this regard.

[English]

(IV) Need to provide funds to Orissa to repair the breaches caused by floods in Bolangir district in 1982.

SHRI BALGOPAL MISHRA (Bolangir):

Sir, Bolangir district was devastated by floods in 1982. Government of Orissa has admitted in its reports that 800 spill cuts and breaches have resulted from this flood. From 1982 to 1990, only 48 spill cuts and breaches have been repaired. The rest 759 are yet to be plugged. Government of Orissa has been taking the plea that these cannot be closed due to paucity of funds. The repair of these spill cuts and breaches is of great importance as far as the economy of the district is concerned. If these are not repaired immediately, in another flood, a large number of villages would be washed out and large tract of agricultural land would be sand cast as has happened in 1982.

Standing crops would also be damaged. Due to heavy deforestation, the river beds are silted and have come up. People of Bolangir live under the constant panic of flash floods.

I request Government of India to survey the spill cuts and breaches of Bolangir district in Orissa, estimate the projects and allot special funds to remove the ugly scars of 1982 flood.

[Translation]

(v) Need to give financial assistance to Rajasthan to remove scarcity of drinking water and for lift irrigation projects

SHRI NATHU SINGH: Mr. Chairman Sir, Rajasthan is the second largest state in the country according to its area and fifth according to its population. Water scarcity is the gravest problem in Rajasthan because in other parts of the country water is available at a depth of 50 feet whereas in Rajasthan water is available only at 400-500 feet deep. The average rainfall in Rajasthan is only 2-10 inches and only one percent water of the total water of the country is available in Rajasthan and only 21 per cent area is under irrigation. The scarcity of drinking water is so acute that people have to travel many miles to fetch water. In many places the people have to suffer from many dreaded diseases because pure drinking water is not available.

The number of physically handicapped persons is the largest in the country.

Rajasthan comes at 19th place so far as central assistance is concerned whereas it needs the maximum assistance. The number of handpumps being installed in villages of Rajasthan is totally inadequate and the Central Government should provide more funds for providing more pure drinking water in Rajasthan.

(vi) Need to settle the dispute between workers and management in BALCO

SHRI DILIP SINGH JUDEO: Mr. Chairman Sir, there are 7500 workers working in BALCO situated at Korba in Janjgir Parliamentary constituency. The agreement regarding the revision of pay of the employees was to be implemented with effect from 13th April, 1989 but it has not been implemented so far resulting in wide spread resentment among the employees which may result in the closure of the factory. The workers went on strike on the 20th January, 1990, and returned to work on the 26th January when I mediated between the workers and the management. This strike caused a loss of from Rs. 55 to 60 crores and the management claims that this loss amounted to Rs. 9 crores. The agreement regarding revision of pay was signed by the labours representatives and the management of BALCO on 19.10.89 but it has not been implemented so far.

I, therefore, urge the Government to take immediate effective steps in this regard.

[*English*]

(vii) Need to give more quota of rice to Kerala

SHRI P. C. THOMAS (Muvattupuzha):

Sir, the scarcity of rice in Kerala is of serious concern to the State. As we have achieved success in procurement of sufficient grains including rice, Kerala is to be urgently given more quota of rice. I request that the quota per month may immediately be raised to at least one lakh sixty thousands tonnes per month.

(viii) Need to set up Doordarshan Programme Production centre at Visakhapatnam, Andhra Pradesh

SHRIMATI UMA GAJAPATHI RAJU (Visakhapatnam): The State of Andhra Pradesh has only one full-fledged Doordarshan Programme Production Centre located in Hyderabad. Many important cities in the state, such as Visakhapatnam are unable to pick up the programmes telecast from Hyderabad. In the light of the importance of Visakhapatnam, both as an industrial city and projected in the future as one of Asia's top megapolis, it is imperative that a Doordarshan Programme Production Centre is set up there immediately. Such a centre will be able to service the neighbouring areas of Srikakulam and Annakapally as well as some of the border regions of Orissa.

*(Interruptions)**

MR. CHAIRMAN: Nothing will go on record. The House stands adjourned to re-assemble on 9th April, 1999 at 11.00 A.M.

18.10 hrs.

*The Lok Sabha then adjourned till Eleven of the Clock on Monday, April 9, 1990/
Chaitra 19, 1912 (Saka)*

*Not recorded.